

Hafa Adai!

Rota delegation organized with Santos, Manglona as co-chairs. **PAGE 2**
Psych assessment requested for alleged meth dealer. **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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FOR \$11.1M P-EBT

'3,347 applications submitted so far'

» June 11 is deadline to submit applications

» P-EBT benefit coupons anticipated to be issued this July

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's Child Nutrition Program and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program have already received 3,347 applications for the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT, since they started accepting applications last week.

P-EBT is a federal program that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million that will benefit approximately 11,650 children. PSS' CNP and DCCA's NAP are partnering to administer the program.

Through P-EBT, eligible school children receive temporary emergency nutrition benefits via coupons that are used to purchase food. Children who would have received free or reduced-price meals under the National School

See P-EBT on **Page 4**



NMC distributes over 400 degrees

Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptic congratulates graduate Wendielyn Escota at last week's commencement exercise.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College handed out over 400 college degrees and honored over

400 graduates for both Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 in a commencement ceremony last Friday that was split into three separate venues and streamed live over the internet to com-

ply with social distancing measures.

The commencement ceremony, which combined the classes of 2020 and 2021 after

See NMC on **Page 4**

Museum gets tokens from first Pacific Islander to descend to Mariana Trench

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Interior Museum in Washington, D.C. recently acquired

items donated by Nicole Yamase, who on March 11, 2021, became the first Pacific Is-

lander to descend to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench—widely considered the deepest part of the ocean. The Interior Museum accepted the items last week in honor of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

See MUSEUM on **Page 4**



The items that Nicole Yamase donated to the Interior Museum in Washington, D.C. include a polystyrene that accompanied her on the outside of the submergence vehicle, an autographed flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, and badges from the mission.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

5 more COVID-19 cases

The CNMI saw its total number of COVID-19 cases rise to 181 last Saturday after five arriving travelers tested positive, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through fifth day testing and testing on arrival last May 20. These cases did not report any COVID-19 vaccination. CHCC said the individuals have been moved to the designated isolation area at the Kanoa

Alternate Care Site for close monitoring.

See COVID-19 on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 23, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **53%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	21,251
Fully Vaccinated:	19,081
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,720
Fully Vaccinated:	2,828
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	232

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,124	7	8,131
Recovered	7,894	0	7,894
Active	91	7	98
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	162,166		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	176	5	181
Traced via Travel Screening	140	5	145
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	67		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL

"The CNMI Medical Referral Program is a source of frustration and anger for many on Tinian."

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ASIA

Doctors in India are fighting a fatal fungal infection affecting COVID-19 patients.

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LIFE & STYLE

Lady Gaga says she got pregnant at 19 after being raped by a music producer early in her career.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Rota delegation organized with Santos, Manglona as co-chairs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Five months since the inauguration of the 22nd Legislature, the Rota Legislative Delegation is finally organized, with Sen. Teresita A. Santos and Rep. Donald Manglona, both independents, elected as co-chairpersons.

At a meeting in the Senate chamber last Wednesday, members of the Rota delega-

tion also elected Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind) as floor leader and Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R) as legislative secretary.

It was Sen. Paul Manglona who nominated Rep. Donald Manglona as chair. Hocog nominated Santos as co-chair.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that, now that they are

officially organized, she hopes that they act immediately upon local bills and appropriations that provide funding for interisland medical referrals, local scholarship, and other locally created programs.

Santos said several bills have already had three appearances and have been referred to

their delegation clerk for action. She said there are also correspondences from departments and agencies that require the delegation's review and consideration.

The senator said their clerk has solicited comments such as from the Rota mayor, who by law has up to 30 days to submit comments



Manglona

on local and appropriation bills.

Like the rest of the delegation members, Santos said she looks forward to working with the CNMI's leaders and municipalities, which stand to receive substantial amount of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

"It is hoped that the utiliza-

tion of such funds will align with our island's priorities that will certainly accomplish much for our people of Rota," Santos said.

She underscored the need for the delegation members to continue to identify infusion of new funding to maintain the existing locally created programs and improving the delivery of services and programs to the people and community.

Humanities Council program aims to bring together Marianas' youth

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is excited to announce an upcoming Community Grant project called *Inafa'maolek Manhoben Marianas*, an *Inafa'maolek* Youth Heritage Program designed to bring together 28 indigenous youth leaders from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

The retreat, to be led by Eva Aguon Cruz of Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam as project director, aims to engage the youth participants in a collective cultural experience that celebrates and honors our common heritage and the legacy of our ancestors.

"It's always been a dream of mine to see our islands and our people embrace each other as one. If we acknowledge that there was a time of separation, knowing that it was something that was painful and led to divisions, then we can move forward to a state of healing and understanding," said Cruz. "Our elders carry so much, because they're the ones who experienced it. But we can start planting the seeds with our youth, creating the space where they can have positive experiences, where they can connect not only to our culture, but also to each other."

The *Inafa'Maolek Manhoben Marianas* is a collaborative effort between organizations and departments of Guam and the CNMI. The team includes Cruz, of Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam; Roman Tudela Jr., CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office; and Mayor Efrain Atalig of the Rota Municipal Council.

"The organization is geared toward enhancing our indigenous *manhoben's* knowledge about the Chamorro heritage in the Marianas archipelago and building good relations between the youth and elders throughout Guam and the NMI," said Atalig, who is enthusiastic about this project.

This summer program gives the youth a chance to explore the unique features of



Eva Aguon Cruz of Sanctuary Incorporated of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the Marianas, traditional cultural knowledge that has been passed down through elders and practitioners, and the different expressions of culture through the arts. Youth ambassadors will engage in hybrid virtual and in-person sessions for sacred-site visits, farm tours, cultural arts workshops, civic discussions and more each week on their respective islands for the month of June. The summer sessions culminate in the two-week retreat on Rota in July where youth and mentors from all four islands will convene.

The *Inafa'maolek* Youth Heritage Program is currently accepting applicants for youth ambassadors and mentors. All expenses for the Rota retreat are covered and mentors who commit to the summer program will receive a stipend. For more information, contact Lawrence Lizama at (671)-687-5987 or visit their Facebook/Instagram page @inafamaolekyouth.

This project is made possible in part by funding from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Administration for Native Americans.

For more information about the Humanities Council's Community Grants Program, contact the council at (670)-235-4785; info@nmhcouncil.org; or visit www.nmhcouncil.org. (PR)



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24	25	May 26 Lunch Buffet Steak Night	May 27 Lunch Buffet Steak Night	May 28 Lunch Buffet Seafood Night	May 29 Lunch Buffet	May 30 Sunday Brunch
31	1	June 2	June 3 Lunch Buffet Steak Night	June 4 Lunch Buffet Seafood Night	June 5 Lunch Buffet	June 6 Sunday Brunch

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Hofschneider: ARPA bill was never put on calendar for action

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Friday that a House bill that sought to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the CNMI's share of American Rescue Plan Act money was never put on calendar for action during their session last Tuesday.

Hofschneider said Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) had requested to put House Bill 22-33 on calendar for action, but it didn't move past discussion.

Manglona on Friday also said that he only withdrew the motion to place the bill on calendar for action after senators agreed to consider the bill at the next Senate session. "If they didn't agree I was ready to have the members vote on it, regardless of the result. They will have to answer to their constituents," he said.

Manglona said it's just that he didn't agree with the legal opinions on the House's "tie-breaker rule."

Torres says he will sign CEDA bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday he will sign into law a bill that the Senate passed last Tuesday that will transform the Commonwealth Development Authority into the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

When asked for comments about the CEDA bill during a radio news briefing, Torres said he is just waiting for Attorney General Edward Manibusan's recommendation to sign House Bill 22-21.

The governor congratulated the bill's author, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and the Legislature for pushing this "really critical bill."

"It's [going to] be a great movement and I hope that this CEDA will entice good U.S. companies to come in and make that investment here in the CNMI," he said.

Torres also commended Mike Sablan, chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, and his team for "working so hard" on what they can do to entice private partners across the globe.

He said Sablan and his team at GCEA focuses on economic development. "They looked at just the permitting [and] easiest access, making it convenient for our business part-

"I argued that the House rules was legal," he pointed out.

During Tuesday's Senate session, Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes recommended not to act at this time on the bill pending his review of the contrasting opinions on the House's "tie-breaker rule." Senators then all agreed that the bill shall remain before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

Last March 9, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted twice—as authorized under House's tie-breaker rule—to break a 10-10 tie to pass House Bill 22-22, authored by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Attorney General Edward Manibusan later issued an opinion, saying the rule, which allows the speaker to vote twice in the event of a tie, contravenes the CNMI Constitution. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

ners," Torres said.

The governor said Sablan and his team, through the GCEA, have done a phenomenal job, and that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce also supported this legislation.

With all nine senators voting "yes" Tuesday to pass H.B. 22-21, House Draft I, the legislation now goes to Torres for his signature. The bill seeks to strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the CEDA.

Demapan said last week that the CEDA bill is a huge step forward for everyone who lives, works, and visits the Marianas. "As we work hard to overcome the challenges of the pandemic, I am focused on work-

ing with my colleagues to reinvigorate the economy, seek new revenue, and create more jobs for our people," Demapan said.

The House unanimously passed the bill last March 25.

CDA's current mandate does not include a proactive outreach and promotion of the CNMI as a location for private investment. The creation of CEDA establishes a central authority for the pursuit of the CNMI's economic development priorities and is a step toward modernizing the way in which the CNMI economy grows.



Torres



Demapan

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Auntie Oba sets sail

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A non-profit organization dedicated

to preserving the CNMI's maritime traditions, 500 Sails, launched its latest canoe, or *proa*, called *Auntie Oba* at the beachside in front of the

Guma Sakman on Sunday. The boat is named in honor of the late Jacoba Seman, who was lovingly referred to as Auntie Oba.

"It's a very special moment for the family. When we found out about this project, we were very humbled

and very touched by having Auntie Oba be the matron of one of these canoes," said Vincent Seman. Auntie Oba was his mother's older sister.

Seman wanted to thank in particular his cousin, Eloise Furey, who helped make the naming of the *proa* in honor of Auntie Oba possible. "Auntie Oba has always had an affinity for the ocean, and having this canoe [lets us] know that her spirit lives on," Seman said.

For 500 Sails board secretary/treasurer and co-founder Emma Perez, she is just happy to see another addition to the organization's fleet. *Auntie Oba* is 500 Sails' fifth *proa* that the public can ride on every Sunday.

"[I'm] very happy. I mean just look at [those five] canoes out on

the water. It's just beautiful, and I can imagine 10, 20 times more than that. It's so unique for the CNMI that we have two maritime cultures here, and that they're coming together," said Perez.

Auntie Oba's design, as with 500 Sails' four other *proas*, is based off of a 1742 drawing of an original *proa* done by an English nautical draftsman. Known as the "Anson Drawing," the sketches were surprisingly detailed enough to serve as a blueprint for what was then hailed by the foreign sailors as the fastest boat on Earth.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MUSEUM

From Page 1

Heritage Month.

"May these items represent our strength, pride, resiliency, and the amazing accomplishments we will continue to achieve as Pacific Islanders," said Yamase, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"We often remark that our collection spans from West to East and from sea to sky, but to be given these items that have traveled with Nicole Yamase to the deepest known section of the Earth's ocean is a first for the museum and incredibly special," said Tracy Baetz, chief curator of the Interior Museum.

"We are pleased that the Interior Museum continues to update and strengthen its collection, including items that represent the island areas," said Nikolao Pula, acting assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the current director of the Office of Insular Affairs. "This gift represents the unique achievement

Ms. Yamase has made as the first Pacific Islander to descend to the Challenger Deep and will now continue to share her story for generations to come."

From her journey to a depth of nearly 36,000 feet (11 kilometers), Yamase has gifted a polystyrene cup with "Micronesia," "United We Stand," and the names of the Micronesian islands written on it that accompanied her on the outside of the Deep Submergence Vehicle *Limiting Factor* and has shrunk to the size of a large thimble, visibly demonstrating the effects of ocean pressure; an autographed flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, which she carried with her inside the submersible; and badges from the mission. Yamase completed the expedition with retired U.S. Naval officer and undersea explorer Victor Vescovo.

The Mariana Trench straddles a large part of the Western Pacific from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, encompassing Guam and part of the exclusive economic zone of the Federated States of Micronesia, where the deepest

known point, the Challenger Deep is found. Yamase, a Ph.D. candidate in marine biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who hails from the Federated States of Micronesia, is among the few people to have made the voyage and is the first Pacific Islander to do so.

Yamase's expedition was culturally, historically, and scientifically significant and an important milestone in her educational journey, which was partly funded through the Micronesia Conservation Trust's Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund. The MCT is a regional non-profit organization supporting biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development in Guam, the CNMI, FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The MCT has been a recipient of OIA funding to support capacity development, training, and the protection of natural resources.

To learn more about Yamase's historic expedition, listen to the OIA Conversation with Nicole Yamase on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/TB-JV1GgyZIk>. (PR)

P-EBT

From Page 1

Lunch Act if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least 5 consecutive days are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update on P-EBT, NAP administrator Walter Macaranas said Friday that the Child Nutrition Program delivered P-EBT applications to all public and private across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last Monday for distribution to 11,500 school-aged children.

Macaranas said the applications were handed to the students to bring home so their parents or guardians can fill out and submit them to the CNP Office Building 1251 next to the Medicaid Office on Capital Hill, or at the NAP Office in As Lito.

Blank applications are available at both the CNP and NAP offices.

The administrator said the CNP office is accepting applications each weekday from 7:30am to 4:30pm and that applicants are urged to arrive at the CNP office before 4:15pm.

The NAP office is accepting applications each weekday from 8am to 5pm.

Deadline to submit applications is on June 11, 2021 no later than 4:30pm at the CNP office, or the NAP office no later than 5pm.

Applicants only need to bring the completed applications and a way to photograph the application after it's been stamped "received."

CNP and NAP have underscored the importance for the applicants to record their application numbers to aid in tracking and possible inquiries. Only originally issued numbered P-EBT applications will be accepted.

Copies or electronic submission will not be accepted and will not be considered received.

Macaranas said the NAP office will be unable to receive P-EBT applications on June 1 to 7 due to the NAP drive-through distribution. During this period, P-EBT applicants are urged to submit the applications to the CNP office.

The administrator said NAP will begin again accepting applications on June 8.

He said the NAP office is managing the call center and the common inquiries they are receiving are when should they expect to receive their P-EBT benefits. Macaranas said given the complex process involved, initial P-EBT benefits are now anticipated to be issued in July, and that details will be provided once confirmation has been made. He said details will be posted on the CNP and NAP webpages and through public announcements via media.

On another inquiry, Macaranas said some callers have asked, "I have a child under 6 years old but is not enrolled in school or child care. Can I include my child in the application?"

The administrator said their response is "yes," but they also explained that the child must be a member of a NAP household who has received NAP benefits at any time beginning Oct. 1, 2020. For these situations, he said, NAP will verify against its NAP records and validate whether the child was a NAP recipient and months they received NAP benefits beginning Oct. 2, 2020.

Macaranas said callers also asked "My child is 5 years old and enrolled in pre-K. Is my child eligible for P-EBT benefits?" He said their answer is "conditionally, yes."

The administrator pointed out that

a school that is entitled to provide the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program is considered covered for P-EBT. He said any child enrolled in pre-school that is in a covered school receiving SBP and SNLP will be entitled for P-EBT.

Macaranas said a school-aged child is defined as children in pre-school to Grade 12.

CNP director/manager Dale Roberts disclosed that on Mondays, CNP expects to post a list of applications that have been fully processed on the PSS CNP webpage.

"Our office will begin contacting applicants whose applications have errors beginning June 1, 2021," said Roberts in a statement.

He said the most common error is that the name of the adult signing the P-EBT application is not listed on the schools' records as being the parent or guardian of all children listed on the application.

Roberts said they have a very large pile of applications with this problem and contacting the applicants directly is time-consuming so they will begin contacting them on June 1.

Roberts asked that applicants not call their office inquiring about the progress of their applications as that takes valuable time away from their already understaffed application process team.

"We are expecting somewhere around 7,000 applications and after two weeks we seem to be right on target," the director said.

Roberts earlier estimated that each public school children will get a little bit over \$900 worth of coupons.

For more information about the P-EBT program, people can visit the PSS and NAP websites at cnmipss.org or cnminap.gov.mp, respectively. They can call the P-EBT contact center at 287-3063 to 287-3065.

COVID-19

From Page 1

The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

Out of the 181 total COVID-19 cases, CHCC said 145 were identified by travel screening while 36 were local transmissions—11 from community-based tracing and 16 from contact tracing.

As of 7pm on May 22, 141 or 53% of the CNMI's eligible population have been fully vaccinated. Of that number, 19,081 took the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, while 2,828 took Moderna Inc. A total of only 232 were jabbed by the single-dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. In

addition, 21,251 have gotten the first doses of Pfizer/BioNTech and 3,720 of Moderna.

CHCC also reminded the community that walk-ins are welcome at all COVID-19 vaccination sites on Saipan—the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the Commonwealth Health Center and the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. MCATS hours are from Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm, and Saturdays, 8am-12pm. The Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center hours are from Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm, and Saturdays, 8am-4pm.

CHCC said transportation to and from vaccination sites are free and available by registering online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or calling 682-SHOT (7468).

Twelve- to 17-year-olds who complete their two-dose series will receive gift bags. (*Saipan Tribune*)

NMC

From Page 1

the ceremony was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was held at the Saipan World Resort, Crowne Plaza (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan), and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

In recognition of COVID-19 safety guidelines, only graduating students and NMC staff and faculty were allowed to participate in person while their families and friends watched the ceremony via live stream on NMC's website and Facebook account.

Also present for the commencement exercise were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda, and other members of the Board of Regents.

In his address to the graduates, interim president Frankie Eliptico thanked the students for being an amazing source of inspiration for the community, for other students, and for him.

"There are students who are single moms and dads taking a full load of classes while having to care for families and working full time, there are students who were juggling three jobs, students who worked through sleepless nights, tiring lab hours, and remote study groups. Yet they persisted. And they succeeded," he said.

Eliptico also acknowledged the staff, faculty, and administrators of NMC who helped support the stu-

dents in their educational journey, as well as the graduation committee led by Manny Tenorio Castro, director of Enrollment Services, for organizing the ceremony.

Cepeda also acknowledged the perseverance of the graduates despite the challenges they faced. "To achieve this important milestone in your life, despite the challenges that were placed in front of you from having to transition to virtual learning, it is a trial no one has ever been tasked before. And to the Northern Marianas College faculty and staff who were there every step of the way [and] who, may I say, did an excellent job in ensuring that there are no delays in achieving your goals," he said.

The associate degrees awarded include Business, Liberal Arts, Business Administration (Accounting, Business Management or Computer Applications Emphasis), Criminal Justice, Hospitality Management, Natural Resource Management, and Nursing.

The bachelor degrees awarded were in Business Management (or business management with accounting concentration) and in Education (with emphasis in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education)

For the first time, bachelor of science degrees in criminal justice were also distributed in person by University of Guam's Ronald McNinch-Su. University of Guam president Tom Krise conferred the degrees virtually.

Psych assessment requested for alleged meth dealer

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dwight Lee DLG Aldan, who

MILESTONES

Henry Andersen named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH—Henry Andersen of Saipan has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2021 Dean's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6. (PR)

SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Learn more at www.snhu.edu. (PR)

2 from Saipan on SNHU 2021 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH—Southern New Hampshire University congratulates Noah Pohl of Saipan and Elicia San Nicolas of Saipan on being named to the Winter 2021 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

was arrested in As Lito on May 18 on one count of "possession with intent to distribute" more than 50 grams of meth-

amphetamine, has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order a psychiatric assessment for himself. The motion for a psychiatric assessment, submitted by Aldan's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, was filed at the district court on May 20 and was unopposed. It was previously reported that Aldan is to be represented by Steven P. Pixley effective May 18. Pixley then filed a motion to withdraw as his lawyer on May 19, which was eventually granted. That's how Torres ended up representing Aldan in this case. In his May 20 motion fil-

ing, Torres states that the assessment for Aldan is "for purposes of the detention hearing on May 24," and that the court should order Aldan's psychiatric assessment through the U.S. Marshals Service in coordination with the U.S. Probation Office and the CNMI Department of Corrections. The agencies will then schedule an expedited appointment for Aldan at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Family Care Clinic. Torres further mentions that the motion is unopposed by the government. According to Torres, the gov-

ernment asserts that Aldan's "continued detention is appropriate as he poses a serious risk of harm to himself, other persons including law enforcement personnel." Furthermore, according to Torres, the government is in favor of Aldan's continued detainment due to the circumstances surrounding Aldan's May 18 arrest. According to the May 20 filing, prior to being arrested, Aldan allegedly "threatened to harm himself and law enforcement officers effecting the arrest" by holding a knife to his throat and threatening self-harm as well as making verbal threats to law enforcement. After law enforcement

calmly negotiated with Aldan, he surrendered the knife and submitted to being arrested. Given the government's concerns, Torres finds enough justification to schedule a psychiatric assessment for Aldan. Torres further states that he has met with Aldan and that his "mental competency is not at issue." As such, Torres said the assessment should not be one for assessing mental competency, but for determining "what conditions of release may be appropriate even in the face of the rebuttable presumption in favor of detention."

As of last Friday afternoon, the motion awaited further review.

Hyo Lim Cho of Saipan named to University of Utah's Dean's List

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Hyo Lim Cho of Saipan was named to the University of Utah's spring 2021 Dean's List. Cho's major is listed as Pre-Nursing BS.

Cho was among more than 8,700 students named to the fall 2020 Dean's List at the university. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

The University of Utah, located in Salt Lake City, is the flagship institution of higher learning in Utah. Founded in 1850, it serves over 32,000 students from across the U.S. and the world. With over 100 major subjects at the undergraduate level and more than 90 major fields of study at the graduate level, including law and medicine, the university prepares students to live and compete in the global workplace. (PR)

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Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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**PUBLIC NOTICE***This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.***NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS
05/12/2021**

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Isa Villa II MultiFamily/ Apartment Project	Affordable Rental Housing	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Approximately \$6,000,000.00
-Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Gap Financing through the CDBG-DR Housing Program			

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan, amined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **May 27, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202) 402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

**‘Frustrated, disappointed, angry
about medical referral program’**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan believes the people of Tinian are frustrated, disappointed, and often angry about the CNMI Medical Referral Program, specifically the interisland referral program.

In his testimony at a public hearing on Tinian before the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Aldan said that people cannot understand such feelings unless they live on Tinian or Rota.

The mayor, however, emphasized that the problems that they face today with the program should not be blamed solely on the current administration since the people of Tinian have been battling inadequate medical care for decades now.

House Committee on Health and Welfare chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) held a public hearing on Tinian last May 10 as part of a review of the Commonwealth's medical referral program and to examine how the program may be reformed to improve services, streamline costs, and enhance accountability.

Sablan held a similar hearing on Rota last May 6. She

**Sablan****Aldan**

also held a hearing on Saipan last Friday and will have another one this Wednesday at 3:30pm in the House of Representatives chamber.

In his testimony, Aldan pointed out that Saipan residents do not have to travel off-island for even the most basic medical care and Saipan residents do not have to bear the financial burden, the inconvenience, or being displaced for the rest of their lives as in the case with dialysis patients. That's not so with Tinian residents, he said.

And it's not just the CNMI referral program, he said. The Tinian Mayor's Office itself spends hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to ensure the residents obtain proper health care.

"We maintain a full staff on Saipan, operate two guest houses for patients, rent hotel rooms when the guest house is full, and lease a number of vehicles," the mayor said.

This, he added, does not

include the municipal medical supplemental program that was in place prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Aldan said the supplemental program alone would spend nearly \$150,000 per year for escorts when they do not qualify under the CNMI program and for rooms on Saipan when the guest house is full.

He said included in the \$150,000 costs are airfare and stipend for Tinian patients referred to Saipan when certain medical treatment is not available on Tinian.

Noting that the problems of having inadequate medical care lasting decades already, Aldan pointed out that when the people of Tinian passed the Casino Gaming Initiative in 1989, the law specifically states that revenue collected from the casino industry will go to medical care and referral for their residents.

"Yes, this problem has been recognized by our people over 30 years ago and sad to say that over the past three decades it hasn't gotten any better," he added.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING*This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.*

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepared a PHA Five Year Plan for the upcoming five years. NMHC has not made any changes to the goals, objectives and policies on the Five Year Plan that was submitted and approved. Therefore, NMHC would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the Five Year PHA Plan on July 12, 2021, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from May 25, 2021 through July 12, 2021; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2021 to:

- Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Attn: PHA Five Year Plan
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the Five year PHA Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the Five year PHA plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhcgov.net and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

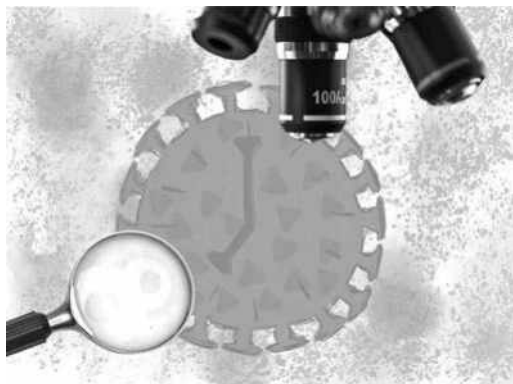
The pandemic caused many to forgo routine medical care—it's time to get back in the habit

As the COVID-19 pandemic recedes as a direct threat, other known public health risks need to come back into focus.

Surveys and studies confirm that during last year's lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, Americans decided to forgo routine medical care and delayed screenings. One study published in JAMA Oncology in April estimates that cancer screenings in particular were down by more than 9 million compared with 2019.

Now, screening rates are rising, but oncologists are sounding an alarm: Not enough people are getting tested, still. All who decided to pass on regularly scheduled checks should seek care immediately. The earlier cancer is diagnosed the more treatment options are available and the better chance a patient has of recovering.

The JAMA study notes that those who pivoted to telehealth were more likely to have continued getting screened than those who didn't pursue any form of communication with



their doctors during the lockdown. Many patients are continuing to rely on telehealth due to its convenience, but of course some procedures will require a physical trip and exam.

Some people have a natural aversion to screening for cancer. Colonoscopies aren't pleasant. Mammograms are uncomfortable. This isn't a reason to avoid getting checked. It's up to each individual to check in and get tested at regular intervals to stand the best chance of catching the disease early.

Doctors around the country are seeing upticks in late-stage cancer diagnoses, when the disease is more complex to treat and potentially deadlier. This has led to the public awareness campaign "Time to Screen," a partnership between CancerCare, Community Oncology Alliance and the COA's Patient Advocacy Network. The campaign provides a free hotline number (855-537-2733) to call to learn about screening options in callers' areas.

Public health departments are still largely focused on putting out messaging about the vaccine process. Local community organizations also must step up to spread the word and encourage people to be proactive about their health.

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What the world thinks of America, and why it matters

One of Joe Biden's first messages to the world after the 2020 election was that America would lead "not by the example of our power, but by the power of our example." Yes, the American example is a powerful tool of influence. But how is that example viewed across the globe?

The Eurasia Group Foundation set out to answer that question in its third annual international survey. It surveyed more than 5,000 people in 10 countries, including allies such as Japan and Germany and adversaries such as Russia and China. Conducted in March, the survey was an early look at views of America and American-style democracy under the Biden administration.

Three trends in the survey results stood out to me. The Biden administration would do well to consider them as it looks to reshape our country's engagement in the world.

First, the United States gets the most bang for the buck out of its nonmilitary influence. The survey asked respondents from all 10 countries whether certain forms of U.S. engagement had positive or negative influences on their countries. The list covered the sale of military weapons and vehicles, military collaboration, American-style education, American private foundations, U.S. diplomats, U.S. development support, American culture (movies, music, and television), American companies and consumer products.

Both forms of military assistance ranked lowest for positive influence. This means that nonmilitary tools, often referred to as "soft power," bring the U.S. more good will and influence globally.

Familiarity and connections with the United States and its culture were also powerful positive influencers. People who had recently traveled to the United States or had a friend or family member there were far more likely to have a positive opinion of the U.S., while those with little or no association with the U.S. or its culture were more likely to hold anti-American sentiments.

Why, then, does the U.S. spend so much more money and effort on military tools and engagement? And how could we promote cultural, economic and educational ties—ties that ultimately feed into our local economies and businesses too? These are some questions the Biden administration should ask.

Second, our costly military commitments to treaty allies aren't boosting our reputation. The United States has 55,000 troops stationed in Japan, 36,000 in Germany and 5,500 in Poland. These outposts might reassure our allies' governments, but they

By **ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD**
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was a U.S. diplomat until December 2017 and is the author of *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*. She wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.



do little to reassure the local public. When asked whether U.S. military involvement in their region promotes stability, citizens of Germany, Japan and Poland were unenthusiastic. Majorities in Germany and Japan either disagreed or had no opinion. U.S. military involvement was valued higher in Poland, but hardly by a landslide, with only 53.2% agreeing that it promoted stability.

Respondents were similarly apathetic about whether the United States had positively influenced their region in the past 20 years. In Germany and Japan, more than half either believed U.S. influence made little or no difference or had been negative. Poland was more evenly split, with a slight majority finding it positive.

Of the 10 countries surveyed, the two with the biggest U.S. military footprint—long-standing U.S. allies Germany and Japan—had the lowest overall favorability ratings of the U.S. as a country and of American-style democracy, even lower than perceptions held by respondents in Russia or China.

This is my third takeaway. Biden was right when he told Congress that America must prove to the world that our style of democracy still works.

All this says that we should lean in on those things that the world already favors about America, from development and diplomacy to culture and commerce. For example, we could pare down our troop commitments in friendly countries and use the money saved to boost educational outreach and cultural engagement.

Surveys are imperfect. But this one jibes with my experience as a U.S. diplomat overseas.

Everywhere I represented the United States, an affinity for America endured, even during difficult years and alongside

See **WHAT** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US-Korea relations

As the Chamorro people of the Marianas Islands already know, South Korea is an integral part of the broader blue ocean geopolitical landscape. The United States has a mutual defense treaty in place with South Korea that outlines America's commitment to South Korea should the country be attacked.

South Korea is home to about 30,000 American troops. It houses the largest base overseas and it continues to embark on a multibillion-dollar relocation effort of U.S. military personnel south of Seoul. The United States contributes roughly \$800 million a year toward funding its part of this military-to-military relationship, which remains in constant motion.

Unlike Guam and the Northern Marianas where most of the military personnel are sailors or airmen, South Korea has a high concentration of U.S. Army personnel and military equipment that support operations not only in the immediate region, but worldwide as well.

South Korea and the United States remain at odds, however, over how to approach relations with North Korea. The United States prefers to have South Korea keep its distance from North Korea and not support the loosening of various sanctions. South Korea prefers to improve overall relations with its northern neighbor.

The U.S. seeks to provide monetary aid to North Korea in exchange for denuclearization commitments. North Korea has been partially boxed in economically, unable to import and export as much as it wants due to United Nations and American-based trade sanctions.

The current South Korean president has publicly stated his desire toward finding ways to work with the North Koreans, intending to denuclearize the entire peninsula. South Korea's rationale is founded on the need to manage competing pressures and interests informed by U.S. Sino interests.

Yet the South Korean president must somehow steer policy positions held by the United States on denuclearization. Real incremental gains may be further delayed as the South Korea president's term expires next year. Elements of President Moon's inner circle have expressed the desire to distance South Korea from American geopolitical proclivities in the region.

Thus the key challenge for the South Koreans is how to diplomatically triangulate divergent American interests closer in line

with South Korea's long-term desire to create lasting peace on the peninsula, without unnecessarily provoking the Chinese or the North Koreans.

Economic realities

Both the United States and South Korea maintain multibillion-dollar trade relations amounting to almost \$200 billion worth of goods and services that flow to and from both countries each year.

South Korea's single largest trading partner, as is the case with the Philippines, is China. China is South Korea's largest source of foreign direct investment, followed by the United States.

Geopolitics, geoeconomics and military alliances intersect on the peninsula in ways that are nuanced and hued, making it difficult at times for the casual observer to fully appreciate the complexity of not only the U.S.-South Korea relationship, but the totality of various other stressors that impact South Korea's ability to manage its own internal affairs.

The reason it is important for our Chamorro people to understand these layers and relationships is that this geopolitical environment heavily influences South Korea decisions related to matters of U.S.-Korea military affairs. The U.S. is the cornerstone stakeholder militarily in South Korea. China is the cornerstone entity economically in South Korea.

Pentagon resources based in Guam directly support contingencies that could take place on the Korean peninsula. American sea-based naval assets provide a broad umbrella of protection for Guam when the North Koreans threaten our island chain with ballistic missile attacks. The Northern Marianas Islands are less protected.

What Guam and the Northern Marianas should expect to see

South Korean firms have firmly established and taken advantage of U.S. military contracts located in South Korea and Guam. Since COVID-19, Korea tourist arrivals have all but dried up and will take some time to recover.

Guam, the Northern Marianas, and South Korea continue to be relatively effective and aggressive with how each location has handled the delivery of COVID 19 testing and immunization rollouts. In South Korea's case, the country remains relatively

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

challenged with fully executing a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination program.

Our Chamorro people should remain keenly abreast of North Korea's unilateral moratorium on nuclear and long-range ballistic missile tests because this status may change. North Korea denuclearization is prefaced on the cessation of American-South Korean military exercises.

North Korea remains an active participant in initiating cyberwarfare attacks worldwide and is incentivized to understand how to take down Guam's energy and water infrastructure to stymie the ability of the Pentagon to fully carry out any number of offensive or defensive mission sets against Pyongyang.

To the extent that the United States, South Korea, and Japan remain unable to vastly improve multilateral military-based relations, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands will remain even more important to allied and U.S. operational planners and some of the most senior American national government officials.

Possible economic opportunities abound for our people that may have been previously overlooked. One opportunity that might be unrealized is a South Korea-Marianas Islands partnership with semiconductor manufacturing or transshipment opportunities. South Korea, as well as Taiwan, are heavily engaged in the production of semiconductors, which are key inputs toward sustaining the functioning of the global digital and high-tech economy. The difficulty, however, is that semiconductor manufacturing is a capital-intensive enterprise that requires very specific equipment and conditions to successfully complete.

Want to prevent sexual assault? Focus on middle schoolers

By C. QUINCE HOPKINS AND MARISSA NEUMAN JACHMAN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

“One in five women will experience completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.” If this Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistic sounds familiar, it's because it has not changed in the several decades since data collection began. Prevention efforts have not coaxed the numbers down and, as high as that figure remains, researchers believe it represents a fraction of the country's sexual assault problem: An estimated 80% of sexual assaults go unreported.

This decade's prevention efforts targeted young adults and teens with the concept of consent, but they, too, have had no statistical effect in reducing sexual violence. We aimed to find out why.

Research analysis led us to believe interventions aimed at teens were arriving too late. Sexual assault is not only occurring, but beginning to escalate in the teen years, which we have seen recently from reports by students at area high schools. Starting prevention in high school is like trying to prevent a car crash while it's happening. Some damage might be averted, but not enough.

Also, the research around the subject revealed the so-called “issue” of sexual violence in reality comprises a handful of issues that includes understanding consent, but also reaches beyond. Since more than 90% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by someone the survivor knows, building healthy relationships is key. The “issue,” then, centers on empathy, respect, gender

norms and roles, and communication.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, researchers have linked sexual harassment behaviors to an increased likelihood of sexual assault. And middle schoolers, grappling with new developmental social and physical realities, are most likely to be the primary victims—and perpetrators—of sexual harassment by peers. This is where we focus our work.

The Erin Levitas Foundation is investing in preventative education and partnering with the University of Maryland's Carey School of Law to implement the Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention. It begins by approaching seventh graders on their own turf and telling them—nothing, at first.

Instead, we sit in a circle and listen. We have heard the complex, nuanced struggles kids experience while learning and processing evolving social realities. We heard girls are just as likely to engage in sexual harassment as boys, and boys are just as likely to be victimized by toxic masculinity as girls.

Working in a circle instead of lecturing, we've worked with these kids to help them process and understand the drivers behind harassment, the foreteller of assault.

Educators have said these efforts changed classroom dynamics and, in addressing problematic behavior directly, created fundamental changes in students' understanding of what is and is not OK.

Here's what we've learned in these raw, honest, uncomfortable, but-oh-so-important conversations:

—Boys, too, are struggling and almost as likely to be sexually harassed as girls at this age. Peer pressure and gender expectations can make kids fearful to speak up. One antidote to

unhealthy ideas about masculinity and femininity is fostering a healthy, close relationship with family and peers. People with strong attachments are less likely to engage in sexually aggressive behaviors.

—Kids are relieved to have space to talk about this stuff. Our groups have engaged in thoughtful conversations about the social waters they are navigating. Have you ever said to a child or been told: “He's teasing you because he likes you.” Parents sometimes brush off these concerns. Instead, when kids bring up these topics, it's important for caregivers to address them.

—Empathy is a powerful antidote. Every time you label a person or assign them traits based on cultural constructs, you are dehumanizing them. Assigning gender roles forces one to look at people through a reductive lens, seeing them as less human. This is a first step on the path to sexual assault. In our program, we talk about understanding social cues and developing perspective taking. Have you ever caught yourself saying: “That's just for girls.” Kids hear the judgment inherent in these messages.

Sexual assault takes an emotional and a measurable financial toll. With the CDC reporting 25 million rape survivors in the U.S. right now, we can expect to spend more than \$3 trillion over their lifetime on health care, criminal justice response and lost productivity. If you are uncomfortable speaking with your kids about sexual assault, that's OK. Try listening instead.

C. Quince Hopkins is the director of the Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. Marissa Neuman Jachman is executive director of the Erin Levitas Foundation. They wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

WHAT

From Page 10






growing concerns about our military adventurism. In Nigeria,

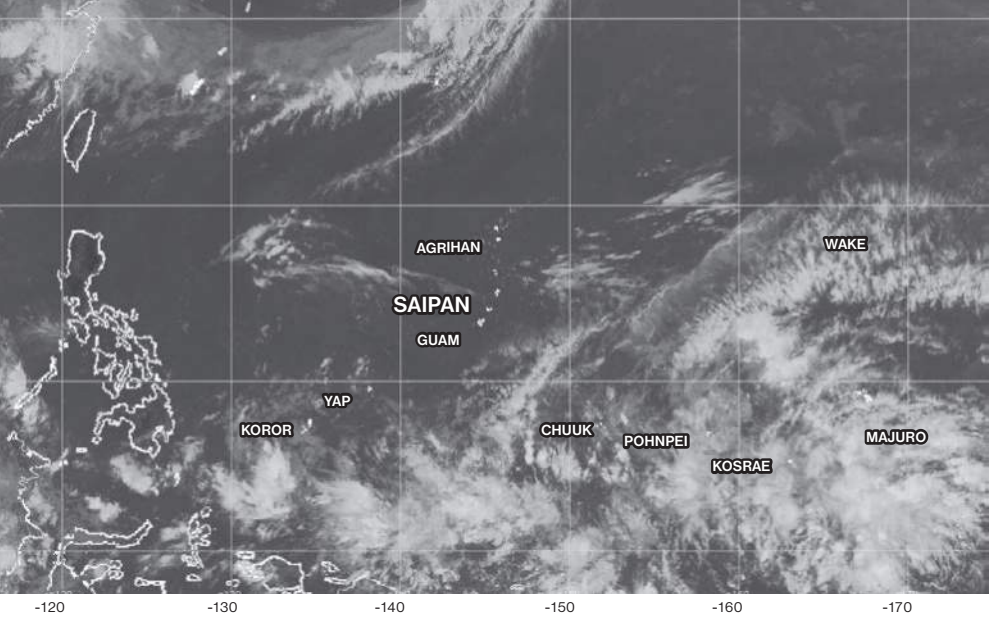
I interviewed students eager to study in American schools. In South Sudan, activists sought our advice on protecting a free press and building an active civil society. In Somalia, politicians sought to recreate the U.S. House and Senate. (I had my own doubts about whether our Congress was something others might

want to mimic.)

The power of our example was evident to me then, even at times when it was more promise than reality. If President Biden is serious about leading by example over force, we could improve not just our reputation but our influence around the world.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:39 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


Light showers are present across the Marianas, along with partly cloudy skies. Combined seas are between 3 to 5 feet with an eight second period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87 79 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F	
Yap	Partly cloudy	88 73 °F	
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	87 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	87 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:39 AM	4:23 PM
Tuesday	-	4:25 AM	5:26 PM
Wednesday	-	5:15 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	-	6:10 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	60 56 °F	
Beijing	Partly cloudy	85 69 °F	
Hong Kong	Showers	79 75 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	85 72 °F	
London	Cloudy	62 48 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly cloudy	74 57 °F	
Manila	Partly cloudy	91 79 °F	
Melbourne	Rain	63 54 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
New York	Thunderstorms	85 53 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79 58 °F	
Paris	Overcast	62 47 °F	
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	87 57 °F	
Rome	Partly cloudy	80 59 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	72 47 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	68 51 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	79 53 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	74 61 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	90 60 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:18 AM	High Tide	2.17	
12:06 PM	Low Tide	0.25	
6:28 PM	High Tide	1.97	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

383 graduates earn degrees in UOG's largest commencement



Deliquina



Dionisio

The University of Guam conferred degrees to 383 graduates at its Fañomnākan Commencement Ceremony on Sunday. The number marks the university's largest graduating class in history and includes another record—40% of students graduating with honors.

The ceremony, held at Paseo Stadium in Hagåtña, was the first in-person commencement that the university has held since December 2019.

Of 333 bachelor's degrees conferred, the highest numbers were in business administration, criminal justice, nursing, and social work. The criminal justice graduates include 21 graduates from Saipan, who are the first Northern Marianas College students to complete a four-year degree in criminal justice following an NMC-UOG partnership program launched in 2019.

Of 50 master's degree conferred, the majority were Master of Public Administration degrees followed by Master of Teaching and Master of Education degrees.

"This class of graduates of the University of Guam has been resilient and flexible and supportive in the spirit of our CHamoru values of *chenchule'* and *inafa'maolek*," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise in his remarks. "I am proud of your academic achievements and even prouder of your character. Take what you've learned with us and help make the world better for us all."

'I applaud you for your resilience'

Delivering the keynote address was Gener F. Deliquina, CEO of Coast360 Federal Credit Union and a UOG Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Having earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Guam in 1992, he has since built a solid career in Guam's financial industry while working to enrich the community through civic leadership and corporate sponsorship of various nonprofits and community organizations.

"I started my journey as a Triton 34 years ago," Deliquina said. "[...] However, as a student, I did not experience a worldwide pandemic that shut down the world literally overnight. I'm sure that the temptation to digress from your studies was hard to resist, and I would like to applaud you for your resilience, especially during this pandemic time."

He encouraged the graduates to actively nurture their relationships with the mentors who brought them to this point, to be prepared for opportunities through continued training, education, and experience, and to be proud of their local education and cultural roots.

'Every emotion is part of the journey'

The graduates also heard from Class of 2021 Valedictorian Reggie Mae O. Dionisio, who is graduating with a bachelor's in nursing. She attended UOG on the government of Guam's Merit Scholarship, having been salutatorian at George Washington High School in 2016.

She recalled her journey through nursing school, in which she gradually overcame nerves every step of the way—starting with properly making a patient's bed to now being about to insert an IV and provide specific care for patients following different medical procedures.

"I had a lot of memories [...] where I'd feel anxious, doubtful, and helpless," Dionisio told her fellow graduates. "But here I am, speaking in front of you all today. Despite how hard the challenges were, I realize that not a day goes by where I regret feeling the anxiety and doubt. Because every emotion, whether good or bad, is part of the journey."

As a student nurse, Dionisio provided nursing care in various units of Guam Memorial Hospital and also provided immunizations, telehealth nursing care, and psychiatric nursing care with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, and the Guma

Asusena and Guma Serenidad homes. She was also licensed with an emergency temporary work permit last July to work as a licensed practical nurse and assist with the pan-

demio response.

She ended her speech with a saying often used in the nursing school: "If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together."

Photos and video

The recorded ceremony will remain viewable on UOG's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UniversityofGuam and on UOG's

YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/UOGTritons. Photos of each graduate will also be available soon at www.flickr.com/photos/uogtritons/albums. (PR)



CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Head Start/Early Head Start Program

Serving Eligible Children and Families



Recruitment

School Year 2021 — 2022

The center-based program includes developmentally appropriate learning, family engagement, nutritious meals, health services, and support for children with special needs.

Preschool serves children 3 & 4 years old
Infant-toddler serves children 6 weeks to 36 weeks*

Complete your child's Application Today!



HS Offices: Capitol Hill, Bldg. 1256, Tinian HS, Rota HS
 Email Request: hsehs@cnmipss.org
 Request through Facebook or Instagram Messages

OR

Visit us at our Pop-Up Recruitment Sites
 Locations are posted on our Facebook Page & Instagram @cnmihseh

Submit Completed Applications by May 31, 2021

Applications may be submitted the following ways: **1.** Drop off at one of our HS Offices **2.** Visit a Pop-Up Recruitment Site **3.** Send it by email



323-7446/664-3761



hsehs@cnmipss.org

*Early Head Start is currently only offered on Saipan.

Congratulations

2021 GRADUATES

You fought battles, overcame obstacles.
 You had a goal, gave it your soul.
 You worked hard, went the extra yard.
 You gave it your all!

From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
 and the Members of the 22nd Senate
 Commonwealth Legislature





Business

United’s mobile app wins ‘People’s Voice’ award

CHICAGO—The recently redesigned United Airlines mobile app was voted the Best Travel App in the 25th annual Webby Awards. United’s app was one of five nominees in the Travel App and Software category, and was named the “People’s Voice” winner. United debuted its redesigned app in October of last year, featuring enhanced accessibility for visually impaired customers, more intuitive navigation and faster processing. United has continued to enhance the app to make it an all-in-one solution for customers to seamlessly navigate their travel experience. In January, United introduced the “Travel-Ready Center” to its mobile app, which allows customers to upload and validate test results, review local entry requirements, find and schedule appointments with testing providers, and store vaccination records.

“We’re honored that our customers voted for United to win this award, and we plan to continue introducing new features and enhancements to ensure we are offering the most innovative and inclusive airline app in the industry,” said Linda Jojo, executive vice president for technology and chief digital officer, United. “Over the last year, it has been a top priority for us to make travel easier and more accessible for all, and United’s mobile app gives customers everything they need for their travels right in the palm of their hand.”

Already the top downloaded airline app for Apple and Android phones, with up to 2.5 million users interacting with the app daily, the United app was redesigned last year to help make travel easier for people with visual disabilities. Some of the enhanced features include increased color contrast, more space between graphics and reordering how information is displayed and announced to better integrate with the screen reader technologies built into most handheld devices like VoiceOver and TalkBack that read aloud on-screen messages and notifications. By restructuring the way the information is organized, screen readers are better able to convert text to audio in the proper, logical sequence, allowing customers to better understand and navigate the app.

In addition to the accessibility enhancements, United also introduced a refreshed account experience for MileagePlus® members to easily check balances, track Premier® progress, explore MileagePlus benefits, access past activity and more. The airline also updated its design and navigation to make the app more intuitive and help customers find everything they may need for their travels. All of these changes are underpinned by a new back-end platform, which ultimately makes the app faster and more responsive.

United has continued to add industry-leading features to its

app in the months since the redesign, including:

- **Travel-Ready Center:** A digital solution that allows customers to view COVID-19 entry requirements, find, schedule and receive uploaded test results from local providers and upload any required testing and vaccination records for domestic and international travel, all in one place. United is the first and only U.S. airline to integrate all these features into its mobile app and website.
- **Agent on Demand:** Customers at select airports can receive virtual, on demand customer service, giving people an easy, contact-free option to get real-time information and support. Customers can access “Agent on Demand” on the United app to call, text or video chat live with an agent and get answers on everything from seat assignments to boarding times.
- **United Map Search:** An interactive map feature powered by Google Flight Search Enterprise Technology, that lets customers easily compare and shop for flights, based on departure city, budget and location type, including popular national park, skiing and cultural destinations. This new digital tool available on the United app and website displays fares in a map view, allowing customers to simultaneously compare travel to a variety of destinations in a single search.
- **Contactless Payment:** On flights offering for-purchase food and beverage options, United customers can now use United’s new contactless payment system that allows them to store their payment information in a digital wallet on the United app and on United.com prior to departure. Rather than handing the flight attendant a credit card, the flight attendant will ask for the customer’s name and seat to confirm the card on file. Once confirmed, customers will receive their products and the card on file will be charged accordingly.

The Webby Awards is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the Internet, and United’s app was the only major U.S. carrier app nominated for a Webby award this year. In 2019, United’s mobile app was awarded a People’s Voice Webby Award in the Business and Finance category.

Committed to ensuring a safer journey

United is committed to putting health and safety at the forefront of every customer’s journey, with the goal of delivering an industry-leading standard of cleanliness through its United CleanPlus™ program. United has teamed up with Clorox and Cleveland Clinic to redefine cleaning and health safety procedures from check-in to landing and has implemented more than a dozen new policies, protocols and innovations designed with the safety of customers and employees in mind.

About United

United’s shared purpose is “Connecting People. Uniting the World.” For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. The common stock of UAL is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol “UAL.” (PR)

Infrastructure deal slips, GOP pans \$1.7T White House offer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The prospects for an ambitious infrastructure deal have been thrown into serious doubt after the White House reduced President Joe Biden’s sweeping proposal to \$1.7 trillion but Republican senators rejected the compromise as disappointing, saying “vast differences” remain.

While talks have not collapsed, the downbeat assessment is certain to mean new worries from Democrats that time is slipping to strike a deal. The president’s team is holding to a soft Memorial Day deadline to determine whether a compromise is within reach. Skepticism had been rising on all sides over the lack of significant movement off Biden’s \$2.3 trillion plan or the GOP’s proposed \$568 billion alternative.

“This proposal exhibits a willingness to come down in size,” said White House press secretary Jen Psaki, disclosing the new offer Friday as talks were underway between key Cabinet secretaries and GOP senators at a crucial

stage toward a deal.

But after the hourlong meeting, the Republicans quickly rejected the new approach as “well above the range” of a proposal that could win bipartisan support.

The two sides “seem further apart” than when negotiations began, according to a statement from an aide to Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W. Va., the lead negotiator for the group of six GOP senators.

The White House and the Republican senators have been in talks ever since Biden met with a core group of Republican negotiators over the possibility of working together on an infrastructure plan. The White House dispatched the transportation and commerce secretaries and top aides to Capitol Hill to meet with the Republicans earlier this week, and they had a follow-up video call Friday.

According to a memo obtained by The Associated Press, the administration’s new approach is cutting more than \$550 billion from the president’s initial offer.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AMENDED

OPENING DATE: May 06, 2021

CLOSING DATE: May 24, 2021 July 2, 2021

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-022	2-Staff Engineer Civil/Structural	\$70,000-\$100,000.00 per annum - Ungraded

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: May 17, 2021

CLOSING DATE: June 2, 2021

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-023	Board Secretary	\$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 per annum - Ungraded

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.


Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

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/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

05/12/2021

Early Notice and Public Review of a

Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

This is to give notice that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as the Responsible Entity under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD Regulations on 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C -Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for the Road Improvement Project on Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan. The activity is funded through theThe Community Development Block Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 & B-19-DV-69-0002.

The public may view the information and provide comments regarding the proposed activity by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>.

Written comments shall be submitted on or before May 27, 2021, no later than 4:00 p.m. Comments may be submitted from the following submission methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to (670)234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan. Attention: CDBG-DR Project Team.

/s/
Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

Nation

New COVID-19 cases plummet to lowest levels since last June

Biden betting on wage growth, while GOP warns of inflation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration recently gave a bit of simple advice to businesses that are unable to find workers: Offer them more money.

This recommendation, included in a White House memo about the state of the economy, gets at a fundamental tension in an economy that is returning to full health after the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses are coping with spiking prices for goods such as steel, plywood, plastics and asphalt. Yet workers, after enduring a year of job losses, business closures and social distancing, are no longer interested in accepting low wages.

Administration officials say the White House is not trying to target a specific wage level for workers. But officials say higher wages are a goal of President Joe Biden and a byproduct of his \$1.9 trillion relief package and at least \$3.5 trillion in additional spending being

proposed for infrastructure and education.

Boosting wages gets at the central promise of the Biden presidency to improve the lives of everyday Americans and restore the country’s competitive edge in the world. Republicans say that Biden’s policies have already let loose a torrent of inflation that will hurt the economy. The outcome of these competing forces could decide the trajectory of the U.S. economy as well as the factors weighing on voters in next year’s elections.

White House economic adviser Jared Bernstein said the goal is “to pull forward a robust, inclusive recovery that provides good employment opportunities to people who have been the heroes of this pandemic, folks who are in the bottom half, who went to work, often in unsafe conditions, or had to stay home to take care of their families and deal with school closures and childcare constraints.”

New coronavirus cases across the United States have tumbled to rates not seen in more than 11 months, sparking optimism that vaccination campaigns are stemming both severe COVID-19 cases and the spread of the virus.

As cases, hospitalizations and deaths steadily dropped this week, pre-pandemic life in America has largely resumed. Hugs and unmasked crowds returned to the White House, a Mardi Gras-style parade marched through Alabama’s port city of Mobile, and even states that have stuck to pandemic-related restrictions readied to drop them. However, health experts also cautioned that not enough Americans have been vaccinated to completely extinguish the virus, leaving the potential for new variants that could extend the pandemic.

As the seven-day average for new cases dropped below 30,000 per day this week, Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pointed out cases have not been this low since June 18, 2020. The average number of deaths over the

last seven days also dropped to 552—a rate not seen since July last year. It’s a dramatic drop since the pandemic hit a devastating crescendo in January.

“As each week passes and as we continue to see progress, these data give me hope,” Walensky said Friday at a news conference.

Health experts credit an efficient rollout of vaccines for the turnaround. More than 60% of people over 18 have received at least one shot, and almost half are fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. But demand for vaccines has dropped across much of the country. President Joe Biden’s administration is trying to convince other Americans to sign up for shots, using an upbeat message that vaccines offer a return to normal life.

White House health officials on Friday even waded into offering dating advice. They are teaming up with dating apps to offer a new reason to “swipe right” by featuring vaccination badges on profiles and in-app bonuses for people who have gotten their shots.

Ohio, New York, Oregon and other states are enticing people

to get vaccinated through lottery prizes of up to \$5 million.

Across the country, venues and events reopened after shuttering for much of the last year.

On Saturday, Karen Stetz readied to welcome what she hoped would be a good crowd to the Grosse Pointe Art Fair on Michigan’s Lake St. Clair.

With natural ventilation from the lake and mask and capacity restrictions easing, Stetz was optimistic that artists who make their living traveling a show circuit that ground to a halt last year would begin to bounce back. The event usually draws from 5,000 to 10,000 people.

“I feel like most people are ready to get out,” Stetz said by phone shortly before opening the fair. “It seems like people are eager, but it’s hard to know still. I’m sure there’s a percentage of people that are going to wait until they’re comfortable.”


In Mobile, thousands of joyful revelers, many without masks, competed for plastic beads and trinkets tossed from floats Friday night as Alabama’s port city threw a Mardi Gras-style parade. But only about a quarter of the county’s

population is fully vaccinated. Many went without masks, though health officials had urged personal responsibility.

Alabama’s vaccination rate—34% of people have received at least one dose—is one of the lowest in the country. It’s part of a swath of Southern states where vaccine uptake has been slow. Health experts worry that areas with low vaccination rates could give rise to new virus variants that are more resistant to vaccinations.


“My biggest concern is new strains of the virus and the need to remain vigilant in the months ahead,” said Boston College public health expert Dr. Philip J. Landrigan.

A medical center in Louisiana reported Friday it has identified the state’s first two cases of a COVID-19 variant that has spread widely since being identified in India. The COVID-19 variant has been classified as a “variant of concern” by Britain and the World Health Organization, meaning there is some evidence that it spreads more easily between people, causes more severe disease, or might be less responsive to treatments and vaccines. (AP)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



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Asia

India battles fatal fungal threat as virus deaths near 300K

NEW DELHI (AP)—Doctors in India are fighting a fatal fungal infection affecting COVID-19 patients or those who have recovered from the disease amid a coronavirus surge that has driven the country's fatalities to nearly 300,000.

The life-threatening condition, known as mucormycosis, is relatively rare but doctors suspect that the sudden increase in the infection could further complicate India's

fight against the pandemic.

India has reported more than 26 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus since the pandemic began, with almost half occurring in the past two months. On Sunday, the Health Ministry reported 3,741 new deaths, driving India's confirmed fatalities to 299,266.

It also reported 240,842 new infections, as daily cases remained below 300,000 for a week. The numbers are al-

most certainly undercounts, with many cases likely being missed due to limited testing.

Experts say new infections in India, which had been rising steeply, may finally be slowing. But there are some early indications that mucormycosis, also known as "black fungus," is fast becoming a cause of worry.

Mucormycosis is caused by exposure to mucor mold, which is commonly found in soil, air and even in the nose and mucus of humans. It spreads through the respiratory tract and erodes facial structures. Sometimes, doctors have to surgically remove the eye to stop the infection from reaching the brain.

On Saturday, federal minister Sadananda Gowda said nearly 9,000 cases had been reported in India so far, leading to a shortage of Amphotericin B, the drug used to treat the condition.

Gowda didn't share the



A man reacts as a health worker in protective suit takes his nasal swab sample to test for COVID-19 in New Delhi, India, Saturday, May 22, 2021. AP

number of fatalities, but local media have said more than 250 have died because of the disease.

Health officials were working to alleviate the drug shortage, which comes at a time when the country is already

short on supplies of oxygen and other health care needs, Gowda said.

Mucormycosis has a high mortality rate and was already present in India before the pandemic. It is not contagious but its frequency in the last month has left doctors shocked.

"It is a new challenge and things are looking bleak," said Ambrish Mithal, the chairman and head of the endocrinology and diabetes department at Max Healthcare, a chain of private hospitals in India.

Mithal said the fungal infection preys on patients with weakened immune systems

and underlying conditions, particularly diabetes, and irrational usage of steroids. Uncontrolled blood sugar can put immunocompromised people at a higher risk of contracting the disease.

"Earlier I used to come across just a few cases every year but the current infection rate is frightening," said Mithal.

The latest surge of coronavirus infections in rural India has already taken a toll. Now health experts are worried that over-the-counter medication, including steroids, can increase the prevalence of mucormycosis.

2 separate China quakes cause damage; 3 dead, dozens hurt

BEIJING (AP)—A strong, shallow earthquake shook southwestern China near the border with Myanmar, killing at least three people and injuring more than two dozen, while a separate, more intense quake early Saturday collapsed a bridge and caused other damage in central China.

The first, 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit Yunnan province late Friday. The second 7.3 magnitude quake occurred hours later in the southern part of Qinghai province, about 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) to the south, according to Chinese measurements.

U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist Jonathan Tytell said the two quakes were not related.

The Qinghai earthquake was followed by 453 aftershocks throughout the early morning into midday, according to the official People's Daily newspaper. At least eight people were injured.

While no deaths have been reported so far in Qinghai province, the quakes tore up roads and bridges, with one collapsing completely, bro-

ken into segments.

The Yunnan province seismological bureau gave the magnitude of Friday night's quake and said it struck 8 kilometers (5 miles) below the surface northwest of the city of Dali.

Shallow quakes often cause more damage, especially in populated areas.

The earthquake caused strong shaking around Dali, but Chinese news reports showed relatively little damage.

Three people died and 28 were injured, Yunnan province's publicity department said Saturday.

Relief efforts were underway, with the provincial authorities sending emergency rations and tents to the affected areas. In Qinghai, authorities set up temporary safety shelters due to continuous aftershocks.

Last year, a magnitude 5 earthquake in Yunnan killed four people and injured 23.

China's worst earthquake in recent years struck the mountainous western portion of Sichuan province to the north of Yunnan in 2008, killing nearly 90,000 people.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPTS.COM

-AMENDED-
NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will Board Committee Meetings on Thursday, May 27, 2021, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 31, 2021)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Ricondo Rate Study — Change Order No. 1
- IV. New Business:
 1. Supplemental Budget Request — Berth 103 Repairs Construction Management Services
 2. Supplemental Budget Request — Biometric Timedocks
 3. Supplemental Budget Request — Tinian Airport and Seaport Typhoon Yutu Repairs
 4. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 31, 2021)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Solar
 2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
 3. CUC Power Plants 2 (Rota) and 3 (Saipan)
- IV. New:
 1. Micronesia Air Cargo Services Lease
 2. Tandem Skydive Saipan Inc. Leases
 3. Operating Permit
 4. Public-Private Partnership
 5. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 31, 2021)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business: None.
- IV. New:
 1. Job Vacancy Announcements:
 - a. Ports Police/ARFF-I (Tinian)
 - b. Procurement Clerk
 2. Dual Role Physical Training Program
 3. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 31, 2021)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.
 2. Tinian Shipping
 3. Echo Dock Award
- IV. New:
 1. GPPC Inc. Lease Extension Request (Saipan and Tinian)
 2. P&A Lease Extension Request
 3. Saipan Globe
 4. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Tune in online as we stream live on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Facebook page. Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves Airport Facilities Chair
Ramon A. Tebuteb Financial Affairs Chair
Pete P. Reyes Seaport Facilities Chair
Joseph M. Diaz Personnel Affairs Chair

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-001	MARKETING SPECIALIST II	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-002	GRAPHIC ARTIST	MAY 17, 2021	MAY 31, 2021
JVA-21-003	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	MAY 24, 2021	JUNE 7, 2021

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED U.S. WORKER. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

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-AMENDED-
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (April 22, 2021)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. CORRESPONDENCES
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Financial Affairs Committee
 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
 1. Tinian Shipping
 2. Ricondo Rate Study — Change Order No. 1
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:
 1. Supplemental Budget Request: Berth 103 Repairs Construction Management Services
 2. Supplemental Budget Request: Biometric Timedocks
 3. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport and Seaport Typhoon Yutu Repairs
 4. Job Vacancy Announcement: Ports Police/ARFF-I (Tinian)
 5. Job Vacancy Announcement: Procurement Clerk
 6. CUC Power Plants 2 (Rota) and 3 (Saipan)
 7. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
 8. Micronesia Air Cargo Services Lease
 9. Tandem Skydive Saipan Inc. Leases
 10. GPPC Inc. Lease Extension Request
 11. P&A Lease Extension Request
 12. Operating Permit
 13. Dual Role Physical Training Program
 14. Saipan Globe
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

Tune in online as we stream live on the Ports Authority's Facebook page. Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

May 20, 2021

World

Hamas defiant with military parade, appearance of top leader

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hundreds of masked Hamas fighters brandishing assault rifles paraded in Gaza City and the group's top leader made his first public appearance on Saturday, in a defiant show of strength after the militants' 11-day war with Israel.

Saturday marked the first full day of a cease-fire, and Egyptian mediators held talks to firm up the truce which ended the fourth Israel-Hamas war in just over a decade.

In the fighting, Israel unleashed hundreds of airstrikes against militant targets in Gaza, while Hamas and other militants fired more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel. More than 250 people were killed, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

In Gaza City, residents began assessing damage.

One of Gaza City's busiest commercial areas, Omar al-Mukhtar Street, was covered in debris, smashed cars and twisted metal after a 13-floor building in its center was flattened in an Israeli airstrike. Merchandise was covered in soot and strewn inside smashed stores and on the pavement. Municipal workers swept broken glass and twisted metal from streets and sidewalks.

"We really didn't expect this amount of damage," said Ashour Subeih, who sells baby clothes. "We thought the strike was a bit further from us. But as you can see not an area of the shop is intact." Having been in business for one year, Subeih estimated his losses were double what he has made so far. Drone video and photos showed some city blocks reduced to rubble, in between homes and businesses left standing.

Both Israel and Hamas have claimed victory.

On Saturday, hundreds of Hamas fighters wearing military camouflage paraded past the mourning tent for Bassem Issa, a senior commander killed in the fighting. The top Hamas leader in Gaza, Yehiyeh Sinwar, paid his respects in his first public appearance since the war began.

Israel bombed the house of Sinwar, along with that of other senior Hamas figures, as part of its attack on what it said was the group's military infrastructure. Israel's defense minister, Benny Gantz, has said Israel delivered a punishing blow to Hamas, and that top Hamas figures remained targets.

Still, there was a widespread expectation that the



Hamas militants parade through the streets for Bassem Issa, a top Hamas' commander, who was killed by Israeli Defense Force military actions prior to a cease-fire reached after an 11-day war between Gaza's Hamas rulers and Israel, in Gaza City, Saturday, May 22, 2021. **AP**

cease-fire would stick for now, even if another round of fighting at some point seems inevitable. Underlying issues remain unresolved, including an Israeli-Egyptian border blockade, now in its 14th year, that is choking Gaza's more than 2 million residents and a refusal by the Islamic militant Hamas to disarm.

The U.N. Security Council released a statement Saturday, welcoming the cease-fire and stressing "the immediate need for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population, particularly in Gaza."

Thousands rallied in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, calling for coexistence between Jews and Arabs.

The fighting began on May 10, when Hamas militants in Gaza fired long-range rockets toward Jerusalem. The barrage came after days of clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Heavy-handed police tactics at the compound and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers had inflamed tensions.

The war has further sidelined Hamas' main political rival, the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, which oversees autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Hamas' popularity seemed to be growing as it positioned it-

self as a defender of Palestinian claims to Jerusalem.

On Friday, hours after the cease-fire took effect, thousands of Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa compound chanted against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his self-rule government. "Dogs of the Palestinian Authority, out, out," they shouted, and "The people want the president to leave."

It was an unprecedented display of anger against Abbas. The conflict also brought to the surface deep frustration among Palestinians, whether in the occupied West Bank, Gaza or within Israel, over the status quo, with the Israeli-Palestinian peace process all but abandoned for years.

Despite his weakened status, Abbas will be the point of contact for any renewed U.S. diplomacy, since Israel and the West, including the United States, consider Hamas a terrorist organization.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is to meet with Abbas and Israeli leaders when he visits in the coming week. Abbas is expected to raise demands that any Gaza reconstruction plans go through the Palestinian Authority to avoid strengthening Hamas.

Abbas met Saturday with Egyptian mediators, discussing the rebuilding of Gaza and internal Palestinian relations, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Migrants with children sleep rough in Bosnia border village

BOSANSKA BOJNA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Dozens of migrant families with small children have been sleeping rough in a village by Bosnia's border with Croatia while looking for a chance to cross and move on toward Western Europe.

People fleeing war and poverty in their countries in the Middle East, Africa or Asia are staying in small tents and abandoned houses with no running water or electricity.

The village, the Bosanska Bojna, was all but emptied during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia. Many houses remain unoccupied or badly damaged. Some of the migrants there said there were ill people among them but no doctor is anywhere near the village.

"The situation here is not normal, it's not good. Some people are sick," Safirahmad Malikzadeh, who is from Afghanistan, said Saturday. "We don't have any toilet and water to drink."

Some people could be seen washing with bottled water, while children played

on blankets. Several young men were in sleeping bags out in the open.

Bosnian authorities want the migrants to stay in asylum-seeker camps and have banned delivery of humanitarian aid to makeshift settlements.

There are thousands of migrants currently stranded in Bosnia, mainly in official camps. They arrived in Bosnia hoping to cross into Croatia, a European Union nation, and from there travel on toward wealthier EU countries.

Croatian police heavily guard the border, pushing back people trying to cross illegally. They face allegations of violence and abuse against migrants, which they have denied.

Another Afghan citizen, Arzo Azemy, said she tried to reach Croatia from Bosanska Bojna several times in the past two months but was pushed back every time. Crying, the woman alleged that Croatian police took her husband's money and other belongings the last time the couple tried to cross.

Iran says inspectors may no longer get nuclear sites images

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's parliament speaker said Sunday that international inspectors may no longer access surveillance images of the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites, escalating tensions amid diplomatic efforts in Vienna to save Tehran's atomic accord with world powers.

The comments by Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, aired by state TV, further underscored the narrowing window for the U.S. and others to reach terms with Iran. The Islamic Republic is already enriching and stockpiling uranium at levels far beyond those allowed by its 2015 nuclear deal.

"Regarding this, and based on the expiration of the three-month deadline, definitely the International Atomic Energy Agency will not have the right to access images from May 22," Qalibaf said. May 22 was Saturday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency had said its director-general would brief reporters later Sunday in Vienna. The United Nations agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Under what is called an "Additional Protocol" with Iran, the IAEA "collects and analyzes hundreds of thousands of images captured daily by its sophisticated surveillance cameras," the agency said in 2017. The agency also said then that it had placed "2,000 tamper-proof seals on nuclear material and equipment."

Iran's hard-line parliament in December approved a bill that would suspend part of U.N. inspections of its nuclear facilities if European signatories did not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions by February. The IAEA struck a three-month deal with Iran to have it hold the surveillance

images, with Tehran threatening to delete them afterward if no deal had been reached.

It wasn't immediately clear if the images from February had been deleted. Before Qalibaf's remarks, lawmaker Ali Reza Salimi urged an open session of parliament to ensure Iran's civilian nuclear arm "erased" the images. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran did not immediately comment on the decision.

"Order the head of the Atomic Energy Organization to avoid delay," said Salimi, a cleric from Iran's central city of Delijan. The "recorded images in the cameras should be eliminated."

It also wasn't clear what this meant for in-person inspections by the IAEA. There are 18 nuclear facilities and nine other locations in Iran under IAEA safeguards.

Qalibaf said Iran's Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state, supported the decision.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. unilaterally out of the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. An escalating series of incidents since Trump's withdrawal has threatened the wider Mideast.

Over a year ago, a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general, causing Tehran to later launch ballistic missiles that wounded dozens of American troops in Iraq.

A mysterious explosion also struck Iran's Natanz nuclear facility, which Iran has described as sabotage. In November, Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who founded the country's military nuclear program some two decades earlier, was killed in an attack Tehran blames on Israel.

Health & Wellness

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MAYO CLINIC Q AND A

Running and weight loss

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, I have stopped going to the health club, and I have gained the “COVID-19 pounds.” Would running be a good way to lose this weight? I have heard that running is hard on the joints.

ANSWER: As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, it has created some unique situations for people in terms of weight gain and loss, and with respect to finding and embracing new exercise opportunities. Everyone’s situation is different. So, while running is a good form of cardiovascular activity, deciding if it is a good choice for you depends on a few factors.

To best answer your question, it’s important to ask yourself a few questions. Although we may have all been born to run, running is not for everyone. The most obvious question is: Do you like to run? But you also should consider your readiness to run. Factors that influence your readiness to run include: age, weight and body mass index.

Your general health and fitness level. Are you in otherwise good shape minus the extra pounds? Have you been working out at all in the past few months? Are there any other medical conditions that limit your fitness?

Running history. If you are a novice, your rate and distance will be different than someone who has previously run distance events, for instance.

Cardiovascular and musculoskeletal health. Do you have any existing heart issues or concerns? Do you have arthritis or a history of sprains or breaks? You should consult with your

health care provider and physical therapist if you have cardiovascular and/or musculoskeletal health issues. If you have severe arthritis or artificial joints, there are safer ways to burn calories without overstressing your joints.

Running is one of the simplest natural exercises available to us. All we have to do is step into our sneakers and go outside. It is a great way to burn calories. However, running will help with weight loss only if it is a sustainable program—meaning weeks and months.

For every mile run, the average person will burn approximately 100 calories. The good news is that if you are not ready to run, you may start off with walking, which burns about the same amount of calories. If, over a week’s time, you walk or run 35 miles, you would lose 1 pound per week. This is, provided that you do not increase your caloric intake.

It also is important to make changes gradually, so your body has time to adapt. For instance, if you have never run before, you don’t want lace up your sneakers and head out for 10 miles on your first day or even your first week. Your body will not respond favorably. Our tendons, ligaments, bones, joints, cartilage, vertebrae and discs can all adapt and become stronger if we do not ask them to do too much too early.

My recommendation is that if you are new to running, start off with walking, then progress to bouts of walk/running, and gradually increase your running intervals until you can run continuously without pain. Studies show significant benefits from interval aerobic exercise.



While running is a good form of cardiovascular activity, deciding if it is a good choice for you depends on a few factors.

A simple way to make sure that you are not over stressing your cardiovascular or musculoskeletal systems is called the talk test. You should aim to run hard enough that you feel that you are working somewhat hard but not so hard that you can’t have a conversation.

I also recommend that novice runners not join up with faster, more experienced athletes right away. Two things can happen if you run too fast too soon. First, you are likely to get injured. And second, when you run too fast, your body chooses to burn carbohydrates in preference to fat. Running hard too often will result in excessive release of stress hormones, such as cortisol, which can inhibit the thyroid and cause weight gain.

Slow and steady is ideal, as easy running will cause a number of favorable adaptations, such as increased size and number of mitochondria (fat burning engines), and capillary density in your muscles. Your body also will recover much more quickly from slow, steady runs.

One way to determine your ideal run rate is to do a quick calculation of your maximum aerobic heart rate. If you are in good health, subtract

your age from 180. The resulting number is your target heart rate. When you run, you will burn more fat if you can keep your heart rate below this target number.

When you are just starting to run or walk/run, it is good to start with three or four days per week. On other days, consider cross training exercises, such as stretching, yoga, swimming, weight training, cycling or skating. These forms of exercise will help you improve fitness and burn calories with less sudden stress on your musculoskeletal system.

If you focus too much on just running as a new runner, you are at higher risk of exceeding your tissues’ capacity to adapt, which all too often results in an injury. It is important to be aware of your body and any warning signs of injury.

Forces going through the legs while running can be up to 12 times your body weight. Running within incorrect form or with too much weight can easily result in running injuries. Some studies indicate that as many as 80% of runners experience a running injury every year. Beginners are at a higher risk than seasoned runners of developing injuries. If you have had

a running injury in the past, you are at greater risk of running injuries.

Many runners will feel various levels of pain or discomfort and take ibuprofen or other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs before running. I would discourage this. If you experience some minor pain that eventually improves as you run, go cautiously. Perhaps try stretching or warming up longer before you run.

If you experience pain while running that continues to worsen as you run, it is best to stop. If you experience pain that worsens after you have completed your run, when you sleep or is accompanied by swelling, it is also ideal to limit running until you’ve had a conversation with a health care professional.

Running is a good addition to your overall strategy for weight loss, but it is important to incorporate lifestyle changes, as well. If you listen to your body and run smartly, you can reap a lifetime of benefits, including weight maintenance, improved cardiovascular function, a stronger musculoskeletal system and improved mental health.

Jeff Carson, D.P.T., Physical Therapy, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida.

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Low-fat, protein-rich foods include the shrimp and tofu dish shown here



Source: Cell Metabolism, TNS Photo Service

Quinn on Nutrition: Loosen the grip of late-night snacking

By BARBARA QUINN
MONTEREY HERALD

A woman who wished she was thin, Fought hard to resist her snack bin. When she wanted to eat, She’d say to her feet Walk away from this place that you’re in!

Hello Barbara; I’ve been trying to loose weight. I do good during the day but in the evening and into the night I feel like I have to eat, and sometimes I do not make good choices. I’m diabetic. I would like to know if there is a way to curb these late-night eatings.

— Carolyn

Dear Carolyn,

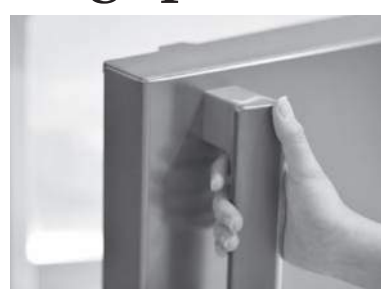
You’re definitely not alone. Almost 3 out of 4 adults in our country are now tipping the scales in the overweight or obese range. And it’s

true that when we eat affects our ability to “lose” the hold of fat on our bodies so we can lose weight.

You say you “do good” during the day. I’m not sure what that means. Do you skip breakfast? Many people who snack at night are not hungry when they wake in the morning. This can perpetuate a habit of not fueling your body during the day when you need it and then eating too much at night when you don’t need it.

Most of the people in the National Weight Control Registry who have lost weight and maintained it for more than 5 years, for example, report eating a morning meal. Breakfast eaters also report getting more physical exercise during the day. Makes sense.

What you eat at each meal is also important. A study published in the International Journal of Obesity looked at what happened when two groups of overweight adults ate a low-calorie diet of equal calories. The only differ-



If you have eaten three balanced meals during the day and are still craving snacks in the evening, you might consider setting a time after which anything with calories is “off limits.”

ence was that one group ate two eggs for breakfast while the other group ate a bagel. Even though the calories were the same, after 8 weeks, the higher protein egg breakfast group lost 65% more weight and 16% more body fat than the bagel group.

Other studies confirm that a high protein breakfast actually helps keep us satisfied and less apt to snack later

in the day. People with diabetes can also benefit from including protein at each meal.

If you have eaten three balanced meals during the day and are still craving snacks in the evening, you might consider setting a time after which anything with calories is “off limits.” This is a great time to discover flavorful teas or water beverages to sip on while you visualize your extra fat stores being burned away. Please note: Some people with diabetes do need a small snack at night, depending on the medications they take. Check with your diabetes care specialist before doing any long term fasting.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of “Quinn-Essential Nutrition” (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com.

Life & Style

Actor Danny Masterson must stand trial on 3 rape charges

CNN cuts ties with Santorum over disparaging comments

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN is cutting ties with former Republican senator and current TV analyst Rick Santorum over disparaging comments he made about Native American culture.

On CNN, Santorum was a senior political commentator who was often tasked with giving the Republican point of view during campaign coverage. His parting ways with the network was confirmed Saturday by Alison Rudnick, vice president of HLN Communications and CNN Diversity and Inclusion.

He sparked controversy in an April 23 speech before the Young America's Foundation, a conservative youth organization. Santorum said immigrants created a nation based on the Judeo-Christian ethic

from a blank slate.

"We birthed a nation from nothing," he said. "Yes, there were Native Americans, but there isn't much Native American culture in American culture."

The comment prompted Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American Indians, to call him "an unhinged and embarrassing racist who disgraces CNN and any other media company that provides him a platform."

"To correct the record, what European colonizers found in the Americas were thousands of complex, sophisticated, and sovereign tribal nations, each with millennia of distinct cultural, spiritual and technological development," she wrote in a statement.

Drake, The Weeknd poised for big night at Billboard Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of the Grammys' biggest critics, who felt they've been overlooked at the famed awards show, will take center stage at another event: the 2021 Billboard Music Awards.

The Weeknd called out the Grammys last year when he didn't earn a single nomination for its 2021 show, despite having the year's biggest song with "Blinding Lights" and a multi-platinum, multi-hit album with "After Hours." But at Sunday's Billboard

Awards, he's the top nominee competing for an impressive 16 awards.



Drake

With 27 wins, Drake is the most decorated artist in the history of the Billboard Awards. He's up for seven honors this year and will receive the Artist of the Decade Award.

Drake has won four Grammys and The Weeknd has earned three—though they've been restricted to wins in the rap and R&B categories, instead of winning prizes like album, song or record of the year.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After three days of dramatic and often emotional testimony from three women who said "That '70s Show" actor Danny Masterson raped them nearly 20 years ago, a judge on Friday found that he must stand trial.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Charla F. Olmedo ordered Masterson to trial on three counts of rape by force or fear, charges that could get him up to 45 years in prison.

She said she found the women's testimony credible for the purposes of the preliminary hearing, where the bar for sufficient evidence is significantly lower than it will be at the forthcoming trial.

That trial will represent the



Masterson

rare prosecution of a Hollywood figure in the #MeToo era despite dozens of investigations by police and the Los Angeles district attorney, most of which have ended without charges.

Masterson, 45, has pleaded not guilty. His lawyers said they would prove his innocence, and during the hearing repeatedly challenged the women on discrepancies in stories they alleged the accusers had coordinated in the years since their alleged rapes. The lawyers said the age of the incidents, which date from 2001 and 2003, made accurate memories impossible.

"Memories fade and memories change," Masterson attorney Sharon Appelbaum said.

The actor had no visible reaction to the judge's decision as he sat in court, with a small group of family and friends behind him. Masterson's lead attorney Thomas Mesereau, who also defended Michael Jackson and Bill Cosby in their sexual misconduct cases, declined to comment outside court.

During the hearing, Mesereau suggested that police, prosecutors and witnesses were tainted by anti-religious bias against the Church of Scientology. Masterson is a prominent Scientologist, all three women are former Scientologists.

Scientology and its teachings came up so frequently

during the hearing that the judge felt compelled to say the church was not a defendant. The organization is likely to loom even larger at trial, where most of the witnesses will be either members or former members.

In her ruling, the judge said that a church document on members not going to police about other members and allowing the institution to mediate instead, "sufficiently explains to this course the hesitancy of these women" from reporting their accusations to police for years.

Appelbaum said the three women had colluded to form a "sisterhood" that "seems to want to take down Mr. Masterson and take down Scientology."

Lady Gaga says rape at 19 led to a 'total psychotic break'

Lady Gaga says she got pregnant at 19 after being raped by a music producer early in her career, a trauma that triggered a "total psychotic break."

The singer-songwriter opened up about the ordeal on Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry's Apple TV+ show "The Me You Can't See," which fo-

cuses on mental health.

Lady Gaga, whose hits include "Born This Way" and "Shallow," recalled having a "total psychotic break" years after she was raped. "For a couple years, I was not the same girl," she said.

Gaga said she was later diagnosed with PTSD after going to

the hospital for chronic pain.

The Grammy and Oscar winner said the producer kept her "locked way"

in a studio and threatened to burn her music if she didn't



Lady Gaga

take off her clothes. The singer refused to name the producer, explaining she doesn't "ever want to face that person again."

Gaga first publicly told Howard Stern in a 2014 interview that she had been raped by a producer 20 years older than her, saying it inspired her 2013 track "Swine." (AP)

Dua Lipa blasts group that condemned her for Mideast stance

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer Dua Lipa is blasting an organization that paid for a full-page ad in The New York Times that called her antisemitic for her support of Palestinians, saying it used her name "shamelessly" to "advance their ugly campaign with falsehoods and blatant misrepresentations."

In the rambling ad which appeared in Saturday's newspaper in the main section,

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, the head of the World Values Network, named Lipa, and the models Bella and Gigi Hadid as three "mega-influencers" who have "accused Israel of ethnic cleansing" and "vilified the Jewish State."

Lipa took to Twitter on Saturday afternoon to "reject the false and appalling allegations" and said the World Values Network twisted what she stands

for. "I stand in solidarity with all oppressed people and reject all forms of racism," she wrote.

Tensions increased in the Mideast since May 10, when Hamas militants in Gaza fired long-range rockets toward Jerusalem. The barrage came after days of clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

A cease-fire was declared

Friday. The 11-day war left more than 250 dead—the vast majority Palestinians—and brought widespread devastation to the already impoverished Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

Many celebrities have taken to social media to post pro-Palestinian messages, including the singer Zayn, Roger Waters, The Weeknd and Mark Ruffalo. Lipa is dating Anwar Hadid, Gigi and Bella's brother.

Lonely customer spends hours at local business

DEAR ABBY: I've been in the retail business for 12 years; my husband and I own it. A customer moved here a few months ago. He's retired and lives with his wife, daughter and grandchild. He's bored and doesn't want to be around his family, so he has started spending every day in our store, wasting our time.

He bothers customers with his stories and traps them for hours at a time. He has purchased some items, so he is buying from us. But I can tell he just wants a place to hang out. He is loud and intrudes into other people's conversations when they are at the counters. He has also taken a liking to one employee who works Saturdays and has started spending four to five hours every Saturday coming in and trying to make conversation about anything.

I have never had to deal with this kind of customer. I don't know how to tell him he can't hang out at our store. He's basically using us as an outlet to talk to people and keep himself out of his house. Please help. I want to say it in a nice way, but I think any way is going to hurt his feelings.

UNPLEASANT SITUATION

DEAR UNPLEASANT: You seem to be a compassionate person. Check out what services are available for seniors in your area. Then explain to the customer that while you appreciate his business, you and your employees have work to

do, limited time to do it and cannot socialize with him. Then suggest some places where he can spend time, volunteer, etc.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: A group of distinguished psychiatrists, the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP), needs help from some of you. They are seeking to understand how faith identity—being spiritual, religious, spiritual but not religious, or neither religious nor spiritual—positively or negatively impacts mental health and well-being. Below is the URL to an online survey, which will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The questions address the following topics:

- Do you identify as religious, spiritual, both or neither?
- What religious and/or spiritual practices do you participate in, if any?
- What are your current levels of anxiety, and what is your current mood?

Readers, your input is important. Understanding your beliefs, including how they affect your mental health, could benefit individuals who need help and haven't gotten it. To participate in this ANONYMOUS survey, you must be 18 years of age or older. The URL below will direct you to the online survey. For those who have no internet access but would like to participate, please send a letter to:

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



GAP Religion/Spirituality Survey
P.O. Box 570218
Dallas, TX 75357-0218
URL: https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8G4jpAMkF2BDLib

Thank you in advance for helping them out. They are a wonderful, caring group of doctors.

Love, **ABBY**

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



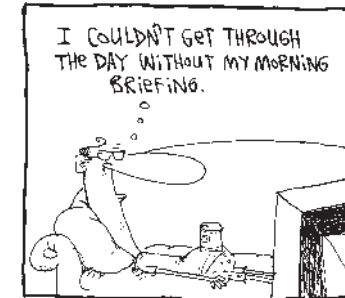
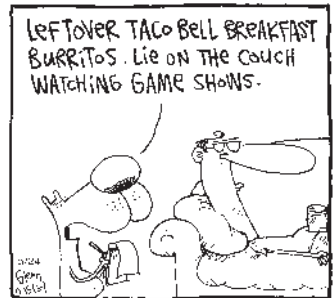
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sheepish remarks

5 "I — Rock"

8 Research sites

12 Legendary

14 Spiced tea

15 Relaxed

16 Farmer, at times

17 "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly — Jepsen

18 "Ghost" actor Patrick

20 Peaks of Peru

23 V-J Day ended it

24 Corp. kingpins

25 Underwear type

28 Triage ctrs.

29 "Us" director Jordan

30 Dazzle

32 Based on ten

34 "Damn Yankees" vamp

DOWN

1 Dietitian's stat

2 Novelist Rand

3 Justice Dept.

4 Coastal areas

5 Summit

6 Goat's cry

7 "Things are okay ..."

8 "To life!"

9 "Hey, sailor!"

10 Folk singer Joan

11 Beget

13 401(k) relatives

19 Hidden phone

20 High card

21 Dweeb

22 Rx amount

23 Bread grain

25 Pattern

26 Military no-show

27 Lounge

29 Prop for

31 "Now, where — I?"

33 Awning

34 Ogle

36 Gator's kin

37 Rocky outcrop

38 "For — jolly good ..."

39 Eve's mate

40 Formerly

43 Lad

44 V.J.'s network

45 Bond rating

46 Leary's drug

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 05/24

ACROSS

1 SHEEPISH

5 I — ROCK

8 RESEARCH

12 LEGENDARY

14 SPICED

15 RELAXED

16 FARMER

17 CARLY — JEPSEN

18 PATRICK

20 PEAKS

23 V-J DAY

24 KINGPINS

25 UNDERWEAR

28 TRIAGE

29 JORDAN

30 DAZZLE

32 TEN

34 DAMN

DOWN

1 DIETITIAN

2 RAND

3 DEPT.

4 AREAS

5 SUMMIT

6 CRY

7 OKAY

8 TO LIFE

9 HEY, SAILOR

10 FOLK

11 BEGET

13 401(K)

19 HIDDEN

20 HIGH

21 DWEB

22 RX

23 GRAIN

25 PATTERN

26 NO-SHOW

27 LOUNGE

29 PROP

31 NOW, WHERE

33 AWNING

34 OGLE

36 KIN

37 OUTCROP

38 FOR — JOLLY

39 EVE

40 FORMERLY

43 LAD

44 NETWORK

45 BOND

46 LEARY

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brianne Howe, 32; Priscilla Presley, 76; Patti LaBelle, 77; Bob Dylan, 80.

Happy Birthday: A realistic approach to life will lead to greater stability. Strategize, then develop what you want to achieve. Building a strong base to launch your personal or professional pursuits will encourage you to do and be your best, regardless of what others say. Believe in your ability to succeed, take care of responsibilities and do what makes you happy. Your numbers are 3, 12, 18, 23, 30, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have a great idea that will push you in a new direction that will have a stabilizing effect on your life. Don't get upset with what others do or say. Do your own thing, and take responsibility for your happiness. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An unusual offer will catch you off guard. Don't take a risk without doing your homework. What appears to be a lifesaver will end up being a burden. Rely on yourself, and take responsibility for your actions. A change of heart is apparent. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Consider the pros and cons of a situation before you delve into something questionable. Someone's motives may be selfish or misleading. Moderation is encouraged, along with reason and logic. Being immoderate will leave you in a vulnerable position. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An open mind, a desire to try new things and putting in the effort to make things happen

will encourage brighter days ahead. Stop waffling and start planning for the future. Be proactive, and you'll exceed your expectations. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let emotions interfere with the decisions you make. A change may not be welcome, but in the end, there will be benefits as well. Verify the information you receive before you move forward. Consistency will be necessary. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the initiative; physically do whatever is necessary to make a difference. Trust in yourself and your ability to get things done. A realistic approach to relationships will help you avoid situations that leave you in a vulnerable position. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your money in a safe place. Spontaneous spending will be your downfall. Update your skills, resume and personal goals. Look for a creative outlet. Charm will help you talk your way into something new and exciting, but don't oversell yourself. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Settle down, take a deep breath and consider what you want. Aim to stabilize your life, not to confuse matters. Simplify and focus on health, fitness and lowering your stress level. Invest in yourself. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider what you can do to make someone's life better. A little help will go a long way and make you feel good about you who are, what you've accomplished and the changes you want to make moving forward. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A perfect plan will encourage others to look up to you. Step up and do what you do best. You'll get an opportunity that will improve your life. Put your energy and creativity into getting ahead, and you will excel. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think big, but use common sense when it comes to money management. A smart move can help you save some cash. Refuse to let your emotions take over. Trying to impress someone will be a waste of time. Just be yourself. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Do your research, and question and verify everything. A problem with a friend or relative will develop. Offer moral support, but don't make promises you'll regret. A financial gain looks promising. Invest time and money in yourself. ****

Birthday Baby: You are big-hearted, unique and charming. You are intelligent and relentless.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6		2		1		5
		7	6		2	
	9			2	4	8
4	8		5		6	
		6			9	
	7		4		5	8
7	1		2	3		5
		5		7	3	
2			5		7	1

Difficulty Level ★

5/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	1	8	6	4	7	5	3	9
5	6	9	3	1	8	7	2	4
3	4	7	5	9	2	6	8	1
1	5	4	2	3	6	9	7	8
8	3	2	4	7	9	1	5	6
7	9	6	1	8	5	3	4	2
9	8	1	7	5	4	2	6	3
4	2	5	9	6	3	8	1	7
6	7	3	8	2	1	4	9	5

5/24

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FAMOUS STEAKHOUSES

Solution: 7 letters

A	C	O	C	L	O	C	K	W	S	L	U	G	E	R
C	N	H	K	N	I	F	E	I	S	M	N	S	N	O
L	A	D	O	F	R	S	D	G	G	I	O	B	Y	A
A	S	T	I	P	T	E	N	E	R	N	U	I	A	S
T	S	C	T	A	H	I	V	N	T	L	I	R	K	T
I	A	D	E	L	M	O	N	I	C	O	S	N	E	S
P	R	I	M	E	A	O	U	R	S	N	E	E	K	L
A	G	M	L	E	A	P	M	U	S	R	N	E	E	K
C	T	F	R	A	A	Z	A	B	E	S	T	L	R	N
H	L	K	I	L	L	E	N	N	A	O	I	C	A	O
T	A	A	O	N	D	S	C	R	S	R	S	O	H	T
I	S	N	V	N	I	H	E	G	A	C	O	C	S	
M	E	O	S	E	S	R	Y	T	X	I	S	L	T	O
S	B	A	R	S	H	E	E	V	I	F	U	A	B	
J	A	C	O	B	S	C	T	P	L	A	C	O	L	Y

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5/24

Andiamo, Barclay, Bars, Bazaar, Best, Boston, Bros., Capital, Cattlemen's, Charlie, Cheval, Chophouse, Chris, Club, Cool, Cote, Cuts, Delmonico's, Dining, Dish, Five, Flemings, Grille, Jacob's, Kayne, Keens, Killen, Knife, Local, Luger, Malone's, O'Clock, Pacific, Palm, Perini, Peter, Prime, Ranch, Ribs, Ring, River, Roasts, Saltgrass, Side, Sixty, Smith, Texas, West, Wine

Last Friday's Answer: Prime
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Lillard leads 3-point barrage, Blazers beat Nuggets



DENVER (AP)—What had Damian Lillard so excited wasn't his 34 points or 13 assists or how he led Portland's 3-point barrage that sparked the Trail Blazers' win over the undermanned Denver Nuggets in their playoff opener Saturday night.

It was holding NBA MVP front-runner Nikola Jokic to a single assist. That's something no opponent had done all year against the Nuggets superstar center who averaged a career-best 8.3 assists this season.

"It was huge," Lillard said after Portland's 123-109 victory. "We know when they're at their best, he's setting the table, he's dominating the game as a playmaker and he's scoring and he's kind of having his way."

"A guy as good as he is, an MVP candidate — the MVP in my opinion — you know that he's going to play well," Lillard added. "You know he's going to do what he does but you got to try to take something away."

Jokic matched Lillard's scoring output, but wasn't nearly the same facilitator.

"I couldn't get the other guys involved," Jokic lamented. "They made me work for it on every possession."

The Blazers hit 19 of 40 shots from beyond the arc, and Lillard, sporting silver sneakers that were a fitting choice for his sterling performance, had five of them.

Subs Carmelo Anthony and Anfernee Simons added four each as the Blazers outscored Denver by 24 points from beyond the arc.

"To be honest, I think we could've shot the ball even better," Portland coach Terry Stotts said.

They were plenty good on this night.

"I talked about it quite a lot during the week, can we guard the 3-point line?" Nuggets

coach Michael Malone said. "Too many breakdowns."

CJ McCollum added 21 points and Anthony scored 18 in his first playoff game against the team that drafted him 18 years ago.

Anthony, who forced his way out of Denver a decade ago, learned in the locker room afterward that this marked his first win as a visitor at Ball Arena, which used to be called the Pepsi Center.

"Great time to make it happen," Anthony said.

Michael Porter Jr. chipped in 25 points for Denver but was just 1-for-10 from long range, and Aaron Gordon added 16 points.

Game 2 in the series is Monday night.

Nets 104, Celtics 93

In New York, Maybe it was Boston's defense. It could have even been Brooklyn's own fans.

Whatever the reason, something had the Nets' Big Three out of rhythm to start the playoff opener.

Once the second half arrived, Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and James Harden went from way off to off and running.

Durant had 32 points and 12 rebounds, Irving scored 29 points and the Nets recovered from their superstars' frigid start to beat the Celtics 104-93 on Saturday night.

"I think once your energy's focused on the defensive side of the ball, it will start to turn for you," Durant said. "So you saw that for us in the second half."

Harden finished with 21 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in just the ninth appearance of the season for the trio. The three combined to go 0 for 11 from 3-point range in the first half, then stormed out of the locker room with an 18-4 run to open the third and swing the lead the Nets' way for good.

The Nets announced a sellout crowd of 14,391 af-



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) passes the ball against the Denver Nuggets during the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Saturday, May 22, 2021, in Denver.

ter playing in fully or mostly empty arenas for most of the season. Harden said the loud crowd was an adjustment.

"It just threw me off a little bit, but second half we got more comfortable and the shots started falling," he said.

Durant, Irving and Harden scored 28 of the Nets' 31 points in the period, with Joe Harris—who made Brooklyn's only 3-pointer of the first half—hitting another for the other points.

Bucks 109, Heat 107

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks found themselves in danger of suffering one more devastating playoff loss to the Miami Heat.

Khris Middleton made sure it didn't happen.

Middleton broke a tie with a jumper with 0.5 seconds left in overtime and had 27 points to help the Bucks beat the Heat 109-107 on Saturday in Game 1 of the first-round series.

"I have confidence in myself," Middleton said. "You miss a lot of shots. You make a lot of shots. You just have to trust all the work you put in during the season and practice."

The nip-and-tuck nature of this game—nobody led by more than four points in the fourth quarter and overtime—exemplified the competitive nature of this playoff rematch. Game 2 is Monday night in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee was the No. 1 overall seed in last year's playoffs but lost 4-1 to Miami in the second round. Milwaukee is seeded third and Miami sixth in the Eastern Conference this time.

"The pressure was all on them," said Miami's Goran Dragic, who scored 25 points and tied it with a corner 3-pointer with 20.6 seconds left. "They need to win at home. It was a close game. I feel like we had our chances, but unfortunately

we didn't take them."

Milwaukee squandered opportunities to seal the victory before the final second of overtime.

Over the last 1:06 of regulation, Antetokounmpo was 2 of 5 from the line and had a 10-second violation that prevented him from getting another free-throw attempt.

Antetokounmpo wore a sleeve on his left arm late in the game after appearing to grab his elbow late in the fourth quarter. He still had 26 points, 18 rebounds and five assists but shot 10 of 27 overall and 6 of 13 on free-throw attempts.

"I just tried to stay aggressive the whole game," Antetokounmpo said. "That's what I'm going to try to do the whole series, miss or make."

Milwaukee's struggles from the line enabled Miami's Jimmy Butler to force overtime by making a buzzer-beating driving layup past Antetokounmpo.

Mavericks 113, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, It took three quarters before Luka Doncic finally went quiet. The damage was already done, although his teammates kept the pressure on in the fourth.

Doncic scored 31 points and the Mavericks outshot the NBA's leading team from 3-point range, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 113-103 on Saturday in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

Doncic was held to one point in the fourth on a free throw.

"We won the game," he said. "That's all that matters for me."

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points and Dorian Finney-Smith had 18 for the Mavs, who led most of the game. Doncic and Hardaway Jr. made five 3-pointers each, and Finney-Smith had four to help Dallas shoot 47% from long-range.

"I just know they're going to send two guys at Luka. You've just got to be ready to shoot," Finney-Smith said.

The Clippers gave up 68 points to four other players besides Doncic, including 14 to 7-foot-3 Kristaps Porzingis.

"We're a strength-in-numbers operation," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "Luka is a great player and KP is a great player and KP is a great player, but as a team we know that everybody has got to be ready and pull their weight when called upon."

Kawhi Leonard had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, and Paul George added 23 points. But they were a combined 3 of 14 on 3-pointers. As a team, the Clippers were 11 for 40 after leading the NBA at 41% during the regular season. Marcus Morris missed all six of his attempts.

"Our spirits are still high and we believe in ourselves," Leonard said. "Nothing good comes easy."

Game 2 is Tuesday night at Staples Center.

National teams wait on NBA stars for Olympic qualifier games

MIES, Switzerland (AP)—With the NBA playoffs starting Saturday, national team coaches are watching and waiting to get star players back for last-minute qualification games to the Tokyo Olympics.

The 11,000-athlete lineup for the Olympics will not be complete until four men's basketball qualifying tournaments—in Canada, Croatia, Lithuania and Serbia, each with one ticket to Tokyo—are played from June 29-July 4.

So if the Milwaukee Bucks are eliminated before the Eastern Conference Finals, then Giannis Antetokounmpo

could play in Victoria, Canada, for the Greece national team coached by Rick Pitino.

Nikola Jokic can join his Serbia teammates at home in Belgrade if the Denver Nuggets don't go all the way, and Slovenia will want to get Luka Dončić to Kaunas in Lithuania, if the Dallas Mavericks are eliminated.

The extra days allowed beyond the official June 29 qualifying deadline for other Tokyo Olympics sports were key for basketball's world governing body.

"We are the very last (to finish)," International Basketball

Federation (FIBA) secretary general Andreas Zagklis told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "We are thankful to the IOC and Tokyo for the collaboration."

"This additional week was material for us, both for the FIBA leagues to finish as well as in order to have the maximum number of NBA players."

The NBA Finals were also scheduled to give players time to travel to Tokyo where the Olympics open July 23.

Each of the four men's qualifying hubs will have six nations playing for a place

in the 12-team men's tournament in Tokyo. The United States already qualified through the 2019 World Cup.

With no space for make-up dates, any COVID-19 cases or mandatory quarantine for players will hit teams hard.

However, FIBA has a proven record for operating effective health protocols.

Zagklis cited 80 biosecure hubs managed for FIBA competitions in November and February, involving 70 nations traveling and playing, without a serious virus outbreak after 20,000 PCR tests.

"There is a very high level

of operational capacity that we have as a global organization," Zagklis said. "The four (local organizers) know very well how to implement this protocol. I expect really high health standards and a high number of vaccinated players."

There are more Olympic qualifiers still to play though the 12 women's tournament teams were set last year.

Starting Wednesday in Graz, Austria, 20 men's and 20 women's teams in the 3-on-3 street version of basketball—including the U.S. in both competitions—will compete for three tickets each to the inaugural

Olympic tournaments.

The eight-team Tokyo lineups in 3-on-3 will be completed when a qualifier for lower-ranked nations is played June 4-6 in Hungary.

Some of the women's teams had a warmup tournament this month at FIBA headquarters near Geneva, which is named for Zagklis' predecessor Patrick Baumann.

Baumann, who steered 3-on-3 onto the Tokyo program, died aged 51 at the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympics. He was enshrined on May 15 into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Indians top Twins 5-3 in 10; Minnesota 0-8 in extra innings



CLEVELAND
(AP)—César

Hernández hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning off Alex Colomé, giving the Cleveland Indians a 5-3 victory over Minnesota on Saturday that dropped the Twins to 0-8 in extra-inning games this season.

Hernández's first career game-ending home run led off the 10th and sliced over the right-field wall to score Austin Hedges, who started at second base under pandemic rules.

Colomé (2-4) also gave up Jordan Luplow's leadoff homer in the 10th inning of a 5-3 loss at Cleveland on April 26.

James Karinchak (2-0) got four outs, finishing a 4 2/3 hitless scoreless Indians bullpen behind AL Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber.

Bieber allowed three runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out six, ending his 23-game streak of at least seven strikeouts.

Dodgers 6, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Max Muncy hit a home run into McCovey Cove, connecting off Scott Kazmir in the lefty's first big league game since 2016, and Los Angeles beat San Francisco for its seventh straight win.

Walker Buehler (3-0) pitched seven innings and Austin Barnes also homered for the Dodgers.

The 37-year-old Kazmir (0-1) allowed just one run—on Muncy's homer—and two hits in four innings. The three-time All-Star struck out two, walked none and threw 55 pitches.

Buster Posey homered for San Francisco. The Giants have lost two straight to their division rivals after a season-best five-game winning streak.

Albert Pujols had an RBI single in the eighth and has had a hit or an RBI in all six games since making his Dodgers debut on Monday.

Yankees 7, White Sox 0

In New York, Gerrit Cole shook off rare control problems to pitch four-hit ball over seven innings, and New York won its fifth straight.

Cole (6-2) allowed four singles, struck out seven and walked as many as three for the first time since Aug. 31. New York had four straight starts of seven shutout innings for the first time since 1932.

Justin Wilson and Luis Cessa finished the five-hitter. The Yankees lead the major leagues with eight shutouts.

Gleyber Torres had three hits and four RBIs.

Dylan Cease (2-1) allowed a season-high five runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Red Sox 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Xander Bogaerts and Danny Santana hit



Cleveland Indians' Cesar Hernandez watches his two-run home run in the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Saturday, May 22, 2021, in Cleveland.

AP

consecutive home runs in the sixth inning, Matt Barnes retired Bryce Harper and Rhys Hoskins to strand the potential tying run in the ninth, and Boston beat Philadelphia for its fourth straight win.

Nathan Eovaldi (5-2) ended a streak of three no-decisions, allowing two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Four relievers combined for one-run, two-hit relief, and AL East-leading Boston improved to a season-high 11 games over .500 at 29-18.

Philadelphia has lost four in a row and six of seven, dropping two games under .500 for the first time this year at 22-24.

Hoskins hit a solo homer, reaching 100 home runs in 450 games. He is the third-fastest among Phillies behind Ryan Howard (325) and Chuck Klein (390).

Padres 6, Mariners 4

In San Diego, Eric Hosmer hit a two-run, bases-loaded single and Fernando Tatis Jr. came around and scored on an error on the play to highlight the five-run fifth inning for San Diego, which beat Seattle for its eighth straight win.

The game was tied at 1 when the Padres broke through against left-hander Justus Sheffield (3-4) in the fifth. The Padres scored five runs on four singles, two walks, a stolen base and a sacrifice bunt by Joe Musgrove, a starting pitcher who sometimes is called on to pinch-hit. The Mariners committed three errors in the inning, two after Hosmer singled.

Craig Stammen (3-1) pitched a perfect fifth in relief of rookie left-hander Ryan Weathers for the win. Mark Melancon got the final two outs for his majors-leading 16th save.

Padres rookie lefty Ryan

Weathers held Seattle to one run and six hits in four innings, struck out two and walked two.

Athletics 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Chris Bassitt pitched five-hit ball into the eighth inning and Seth Brown hit a two-run homer in the Athletics' victory over the Angels.

Matt Olson and Aramis García hit solo homers, while Mark Canha tripled, doubled and scored two runs as the first-place A's took the first two games and claimed the series victory over their last-place downstate rivals.

Bassitt (4-2) gave up only a leadoff walk and David Fletcher's slow-rolling single during the first seven innings. Although he struck out eight and got within four outs of his first career complete game, Bassitt gave up three hits and both runs in the eighth, getting chased by Shohei Ohtani's RBI triple to center.

Ohtani also doubled—giving him a major league-leading 28 extra-base hits—and drove in his team-leading 34th run of the season for Los Angeles, which has lost nine of 12.

Patrick Sandoval (0-1) yielded four hits, two walks and two runs over five innings in another solid start for the Halos.

Nationals 12, Orioles 9

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman hit a tiebreaking three-run homer and finished with three hits, and Washington overcame a pair of five-run deficits in a win over Baltimore.

Zimmerman's home run in the fourth against Adam Plutko (1-1) broke a 6-all tie.

Baltimore (17-28) dropped its fifth straight and lost for the 11th time in 13 games. The Orioles led 5-0 after an inning and 6-1 after 2 1/2 frames.

In his 907th career game, Josh Harrison started for the first time in center field for the Nationals and hit his first career grand-slam in the third.

Daniel Hudson (3-0) earned the win, and Brad Hand collected his sixth save in eight chances.

Rockies 7, Diamondbacks 6

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Madison Bumgarner in a four-run sixth inning, left fielder Raimel Tapia made a dazzling catch to thwart a rally attempt and Colorado dealt Arizona its 12th straight road loss.

Bumgarner (4-4) allowed seven runs—five earned—and eight hits in six innings.

Tyler Kinley (1-0) earned the win and Daniel Bard earned his fifth save in eight chances.

Eduardo Escobar hit a three-run homer and Josh Reddick had an RBI double for Arizona

Rangers 8, Astros 4

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis García hit two homers and helped power Texas past Houston.

García, who hit a three-run, walkoff drive in the 10th inning to beat the Astros 7-5 on Friday night, had a solo homer in the fifth. The 28-year-old Cuban rookie added another solo shot in the seventh off Andre Scrubb (1-1).

Jose Trevino hit a two-run double during a five-run seventh inning as the Rangers overcame a 4-3 deficit.

Kolby Allard (1-0) held the Astros scoreless for 1 1/3 innings for the win.

Brewers 4, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Daniel Robertson hit his first home run in more than two years, a tiebreaking, seventh-inning drive in his second game back from

a concussion, and Milwaukee topped Cincinnati.

Robertson came into the game in the sixth inning as part of a double switch, led off the seventh and homered on a first-pitch slider from Heath Hembree (0-1).

Brent Suter (3-2) won after allowing Tyler Stephenson's sixth-inning RBI single that tied the score 3-3. Josh Hader struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

Marlins 3, Mets 1

In Miami, Garrett Cooper hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning, and Miami Marlins beat New York.

Cooper's fifth homer of the year came on a 3-2 pitch from Drew Smith (1-1).

The Mets' Dominic Smith tied the game at 1 with a two-out, RBI single in the eighth.

Brian Anderson scored the Marlins' first run from third on a sacrifice fly in the seventh when catcher Tomás Nido dropped the ball making the tag.

Miami's Pablo López allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings and struck out eight.

Braves 6, Pirates 1

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies hit home runs from both sides of the plate and Ronald Acuña Jr. led off with his major league-best 15th homer as Atlanta beat Pittsburgh.

It was Acuña's 22nd career leadoff shot, extending his franchise record, including three this season.

Albies added a two-run shot in the fifth as a left-handed hitter. He hit another homer, his ninth, from the right side off Sam Howard in the seventh.

Bryse Wilson (2-2) allowed one run on five hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Michael Pérez hit a homer off Wilson in the third.

Royals 7, Tigers 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Andrew Benintendi drove in three runs, Josh Staumont escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning and Kansas City stopped Detroit's four-game winning streak.

Detroit's Robbie Grossman hit a two-run homer, and the Tigers went 3 for 15 with runners in scoring position.

Brady Singer (2-3) gave up three runs on four hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out six.

Akil Baddoo had the first three-hit game of his career, including a two-run single in the Detroit second. Harold Castro added an RBI single in the fifth.

Matthew Boyd (2-5) allowed five runs on eight hits and three walks in five innings.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1

In St. Louis, four pitchers combined for five innings of scoreless, two-hit relief after Miles Mikolas appeared to get injured in his delayed season debut, and Yadier Molina hit a tiebreaking home run that lifted St. Louis over Chicago.

Molina broke a 1-1 tie when led off the seventh inning with his seventh home run this season, connecting on a slider with an 0-2 count from Adbert Alzolay (2-4).

Mikolas, a 32-year-old right-hander who won 18 games in 2018, was activated Saturday for his first major league start since the 2019 NL Championship Series. He allowed three hits in four innings, struck out three and walked one before grabbing his right elbow while warming up for the fifth inning.

Daniel Ponce deLeon retired five batters around a walk, Genesis Cabrera (1-1) struck out three of his four batters, Giovanny Gallegos gave up a one-out single and a walk in the eighth and Alex Reyes finished a five-hitter to remain perfect in 14 save chances.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 1

In Dunedin, Fla., Taylor Walls hit a pair of doubles in his major league debut and Tampa Bay won its ninth straight game.

Manuel Margot hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning and Mike Zunino homered for the Rays. Center fielder Kevin Kiermaier left in the fifth inning with left eye irritation.

Five Rays combined on a six-hitter to send Toronto to its fourth straight loss. Rays starter Shane Bieber allowed one run and four hits in five innings. Andrew Kittredge (4-0) threw a scoreless seventh and Diego Castillo worked the ninth to get his eighth save.

Toronto's Robbie Ray gave up one run, five hits and struck out seven in seven innings. Anthony Castro (0-1) took the loss.

Coates gets backlash saying Olympics are on, no matter virus



T O K Y O
(AP)—If John Coates was trying to stir controversy, he succeeded.

An International Olympic Committee vice president, Coates was asked a few days ago by a Japanese reporter at an online news conference if the Tokyo Olympics would go ahead, even if a state of emergency were in force in Japan.

Coates replied: “Absolutely, yes.”

Coates said what the IOC and local organizers have been trying to persuade the Japanese public about for months: The postponed Olympics with 11,000 athletes from 200 nations and territories will open on July 23 and will

be “safe and secure.”

But his defiant tone has stirred a backlash in Japan where 60-80% in polls say they do not want the Olympics to open in two months in the midst of a pandemic.

Just over 12,000 deaths in Japan—good by global standards, but poor in Asia—have been attributed to COVID-19. But Tokyo and Osaka and several other areas are under a state of emergency until May 31. And it’s likely to be extended.

There is fear of new variants spreading with only a tiny percentage of Japanese vaccinated. Estimates range between 2% and 4%.

“Right now, more than 80% of the nation’s people want the Olympics postponed or canceled,” Japanese billionaire businessman Masayoshi Son

said over the weekend. He is the founder and CEO of SoftBank Group Corp. He also owns the SoftBank Hawks baseball team.

“Who is forcing this to go ahead, and under what rights?” Son added.

Technically, the games belong to the International Olympic Committee and only it has the power to cancel. Of course, any move would have to be negotiated with Japanese organizers.

There is no suggestion this will happen.

Social media criticized Coates, and also went after IOC President Thomas Bach who has said repeatedly that everyone must “sacrifice” to pull off these Olympics, which have already banned fans from abroad. A decision on local fans attending—if any—will

be made next month.

The IOC relies on selling television rights for 75% of its income, and Japan has officially spent \$15.4 billion to prepare the games. Government audits suggest the figure is much higher. All but \$6.7 billion is public money.

The Shukan Post magazine said in its latest issue that organizers have booked all the rooms during the Olympics in at least four of Tokyo’s most expensive hotels. The magazine called the accommodations “fitting or royalty” for the IOC and others.

Tokyo organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto said Friday the “Olympic family, IOC and international federations” would amount to 23,000 visitors.

The magazine said the IOC



In this May 21, 2021, file photo, CEO of the Tokyo 2020 Toshiro Muto, left, and President of the Tokyo 2020 Seiko Hashimoto, right, listen to IOC Vice President John Coates, (on screen), delivering a speech during the Tokyo 2020 IOC Coordination Commission press conference in Tokyo. **AP**

would pay up to \$400 per night for rooms, with local organizers making up any difference.

Many of Japan’s newspapers are among more than 60 local Olympic sponsors that have contributed more than \$3 billion to local organizers.

They have been restrained in their criticism, although one of them—the Hokkaido Shim-bun—did call for unspecified action from Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. Suga has said it’s the IOC that must determine the fate of the Olympics.

MVA

From Page 23

woman alongside a brightly dressed man in a full-face snorkel wielding a Nerf-gun. Some finished the walk totting selfie sticks and souvenir shopping bags, and others with full-sized luggage rolling at their sides. Quite a few had inflatable pool toys and sundresses and bright floral shirts were everywhere.

The best costumes, and the cash prizes that went with them, were awarded at the end of the walk. In third place was Sildrey Veloria, whose victory was decided by a cheering vote of the gathered crowd. He wore an alligator pool floatie, Hawaiian shirt, and an “I Love Saipan” woven hat. Next up was a trio of SCUBA divers decked out in wetsuits and full SCUBA gear, complete with air tanks, and carrying fins and selfie sticks. The divers, Yuichi Nonogaki, Takashi Nazuka, and Akari Baidya, would have likely taken first place on effort alone, but they were just edged out by the creativity of Laurie Boyer. She had a good costume that might have competed for third place all on its own. She came in with the touristy sun hat, shades, sarong dress, and selfie stick, but what drove her into a firm first place was the pink convertible cardboard Mustang she wore over her shoulders. Her arts and crafts ingenuity made her whole ensemble shout “tourist” louder than anyone else, and the MVA sent Boyer home with a \$100 first place prize.

This event was meant to keep the spirit of tourism alive, even as many businesses try to stay afloat during the pandemic. This is “in line with our efforts to jumpstart tourism,” said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. “We need local participation to make everything



From left, Takashi Nazuka, Yuichi Nonogaki, and Akari Baidya finished the full 5-kilometer Walk for Tourism decked out in dive gear. **CODY RACE**



Laurie Boyer “drives” through the finish line in her first place costume. **CODY RACE**



Costumed walkers including “Pikachu” finish the 5K Walk for Tourism. **CODY RACE**

successful. It doesn’t work without a local flavor.”

One local group enthusiastic enough to join this weekend’s walk-a-thon was Skydive

Saipan. More than a dozen members of the company and their families—the youngest of whom made the journey in a stroller—came down to

show their support for the return of tourism to the CNMI.

With plans to re-start tourism flights this summer in motion, gathering enthusiastic local support for island events is more important than ever. MVA plans to have popular events like Taste of Marianas and the Saipan Marathon pushed back to later in the year, when tourism has hopefully picked up again. The Taste of Marianas is currently expected over the three-day weekend of Aug. 27, 28, and 29, according to MVA’s Ray Villagomez.

With Tourism Month close to wrapping up, the visitors authority also invites the public to join the Marpi cleanup this Saturday, May 29, in cooperation with the Japan-Saipan Travel Association. Though they are moving on, they won’t be forgetting this event anytime soon, since the costume contest was something that everyone who attended had a lot of fun with. This costumed walk for tourism was the first of its kind put on by the MVA, who clearly count it as a success. “Based on how it turned out, we’re seriously considering doing this again next year,” said Duenas.

FATHER

From Page 23

cially since I was paired with my dad again this tournament. It was a good feeling, a great turn out, and I enjoyed it and had a great time,” he said.

“This is the second time I paired up with my dad, we were here for the Rotary Golf Tournament back in February and we also won that tournament,” Xerxes added.

In an interview with Chamber executive director Lee Tenorio, he said the turnout for the event was remarkable and better than expected.

“The event actually turned out better than we anticipated. We are still in the middle of the pandemic and we know that hard times are still around

but at the end of the day, this tournament demonstrated that we are one family, one community, and its resiliency is what brings us together. For the scholarship program, this is the most rewarding outcome that we can see from today is that we’re still able to give back to our scholars, able to give back to the community,” he said.

In addition to maxing out their 144 slots, Tenorio said there were still an influx of players who wanted to join.

“Today’s turnout was just remarkable. It was maxed out and we even had a waiting list for players who also wanted to donate their time and support,” he said.

The results of the Team Double Peoria category will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

SNACKS

From Page 23

turn the tables against their favor foes in the second set with a 21-17 victory, before securing their win in the third set with a 15-12 win.

Snacks for Naks coasted through the double-elimination tournament first besting Ayool, 21-17, to make it to the quarterfinals, where they faced Chupopi and prevailed, 21-15. They managed to take the first finals seat after beating Crypts in their semifinals match.

Crypts, on the other hand, which consisted of Iszel Esteves, Mike Omar, Jerry Saures, Mason Padahk, Ryan Camacho, and Alfredo Guevarra, had a harder time securing their seat in the finals.

The eventual runner-up bested The Big Ducks in their first match of the tournament, 21-14, before moving on to challenge Old But Gold in the quarterfinals. After defeating them, the team moved on to land its first bat-

tle against Snacks for Naks before getting knocked into the loser’s bracket.

In the loser’s bracket, Crypts strived for another chance at a finals seat. They faced Chupopi in the semifinals of the loser’s bracket and won, securing the second finals seat.

In a previous statement from NMIVA president Somia Quan, she said grass roots volleyball is important as it is the first line of exposure to volleyball for children in the CNMI, especially children whose households don’t play volleyball.

“Grass roots programs are significant because it is often the first exposure of volleyball that young individuals will have if there isn’t someone in their household that is a volleyball lover. It’s usually at the foundational level and primarily recreational, the introduction of the sport for a youngster. Also, these grass-roots programs tend to get people who are not normally a volleyball player somehow involved, whether it’s running the tournament boards or becoming an official,” she said.



**Lillard leads 3-point barrage,
Blazers beat Nuggets**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Coates gets backlash saying Olympics
are on, no matter virus**

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24 MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Father-and-son duo tops SCC Scholarship Golf

By **KIMBERLY B ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Joe “Kamikaze” and Xerxes Camacho made it a family affair by topping the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

The father-son pair managed to take home the Team Gross category title for carding the day’s lowest gross score after shooting a 33 in the front nine and 30 in the back nine for a gross score of 9-under 63. The duo managed to se-



cure the win after making an eagle in the par-5 hole No. 18.

Harry Nakamura and Louie Tilipao came in second after firing 31 in the front nine and 34 in the back nine for a gross score of 7-under 65.



Joe “Kamikaze” and Xerxes Camacho, third and fourth from the left, receive their award for topping the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament with the lowest gross score for the day.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Coming in at a close third place was Joung Hoon Park and Sun Ho Kang who landed 36 in the front nine followed by 30 in the back nine for a total gross of 6-under 66.

In an interview with Xerxes Camacho, he said his best hole of the tournament was No. 18 where the pair scored an eagle.

“Today our best hole was No. 18, it was a par-5, we had a good drive. We hit our second shot and we made an eagle,” he said.

When asked about the tournament turnout, he said that the best part was being able to play with his father and just enjoy the day together.

“It was a good feeling espe-
See FATHER on Page 24



Logan Mister spikes the ball during Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association’s Back to Our Roots-Co-ed 4-on-4 Grass Volleyball Tournament last weekend at the Capitol Hill Baseball Field.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Snacks for Naks sweeps grassroots tourney

By **KIMBERLY B ESMORES**
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REPORTER



Snacks for Naks topped the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association’s Back to Our Roots-Co-ed 4-on-4

ment last weekend at the Capitol Hill Baseball Field.

Snacks for Naks, which consisted of team members

Nak Nakashima, Logan Mister, Grace Keilbach, and Ko Kumuch, bested Crypts last Saturday after winning the best-of-3 finals.

The champions started off the finals bleakly, los-

ing 17-21 against their finals opponent, Crypts, but they bounced back and gained the title after winning the following final two sets.

The winners managed to
See SNACKS on Page 24

MVA shows off with a costumed walk-a-thon

By **CODY RACE**
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CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas Visitors Authority is enjoying CNMI Tourism Month this May and has been putting on a number of local events. This past weekend the MVA organized a Walk for Tourism, and were quite happy with turnout.

Over 200 people made their way up and down the Beach Road jogging path on a 5-kilometer route from the Minatchom Atdao pavilion to Quartermaster Road and back. It was a sunny morning with a nice ocean breeze and only interrupted by a short rain shower, which didn’t stop anyone from enjoying themselves. In fact, that rain

shower might have been welcome to some, because not all participants came to the walk-a-thon dressed for jogging. Some came in costume.

The MVA took the classic 5K walk-a-thon formula in a new direction this year by introducing a costume contest. Everyone was invited to come dressed as tourists, with points given for the creativity, originality, effort, and theme of the costumes. As the sun rose over the trees, walkers trickled in after completing the route, dressed in inventive and colorful outfits. Participants wore a fantastic selection of clothes and accessories. There was a Pikachu onesie!

See MVA on Page 24



From left, third place Sildrey Veloria, first place Laurie Boyer, and the third place trio of Akari Baidya, Yuichi Nonogaki, and Takashi Nazuka gather in their winning costumes while posing with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo during last Saturday’s Walk for Tourism at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

CODY RACE